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West Europe Report

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7 May 1984

WEST EUROPE REPORT

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JORGENSEN DEFENDS SDP PARTICIPATION WITH COMMUNISTS IN PEACE FUND

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 9 Apr 84 pp 1, 6

[Article by Solveig Rodsgaard: "Speaking of Peace Fund, Anker J. Says Communists Not Dangerous"]

[Text] Anker Jorgensen said yesterday at the peace conference at B. & W. [Burmeister and Wain] that the Social Democrats [SDP] must be open with the peace movement. He said that it is of minor importance that there are a couple of Communists in the leadership of Friends of the Peace Fund, which Ritt Bjerregaard is a member of.

SDP chairman Anker Jorgensen does not want to get involved in the debate over Ritt Bjerregaard's membership in Friends of the Peace Fund.

Anker Jorgensen said that SDP wants to portray its own position on reduction of tensions and disarmament, "and so one can of course always discuss how close one should get to the Communists. So I can well understand Knud Heinesen. But we will also be open toward the peace movements, which I will separate into those that we can cooperate with 100 percent, and those that we can not take seriously."

SDP vice chairman Knud Heinesen said yesterday in BERLINGSKE that he is not enthusiastic about Ritt Bjerregaard and Hardy Hansen participating in Friends of the Peace Fund, because he is afraid that they can not establish an independent SDP profile.

About the Friends of the Peace Fund, Anker Jorgensen said yesterday at the peace conference on B. & W. Island that he did not know if there is one or two Communists in the leadership, but that the organization is entirely dominated by people with other political attitudes, including a number of Social Democrats.

Ritt Bjerregaard did not want to comment on Knud Heinesen's statement.

"But as to the Friends of the Peace Fund, it must apply both to me and to the Friends of the Peace Fund that we will naturally be judged by what we support and by the manner that the Friends are going to operate. It can not be otherwise, and that is entirely reasonable.

"Whether one can agree with that or not--and Knud Heinesen says that he will not--must be a personal judgment. I think it is important to become involved in such work, and one must decide based on what the outcome is," she said.

Anker Jorgensen is keeping a low profile on the demand to reject nuclear weapons. At the peace conference on B. & W. Island he repeated the demand for a nuclear weapon-free Nordic community as most important and realistic.

"SDP has said time and time again that we do not want nuclear weapons on Danish soil. But it is correct that we still want to be a member of a defense alliance."

With these words, and with repeated emphasis on the SDP desire for a nuclear weapon-free Nordic zone--SDP chairman Anker Jorgensen omitted entering the debate to get Denmark declared nuclear weapon free both in peace and war, when he spoke yesterday at the union peace conference on B. & W. Island.

At the peace conference, which was arranged by the Workers Fellowship Organization, Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and the Union Movement for Peace, SDP was pressed hard to use its majority together with the other "missile opponents" to get Denmark declared nuclear weapon free.

But the SDP politicians--Anker Jorgensen, Lasse Budtz and Jimmy Stahr--kept a low profile.

Anker Jorgensen said that it was very important to utilize each conceivable opportunity to create peace and the reduction of tensions. He stressed the SDP desire for a nuclear weapon-free Nordic zone, preferably a zone from the Nordic area to the Balkans. "If that becomes a reality we will be closer to relaxation of tensions. It is correct that nuclear weapons are also mobile, but such a zone will nevertheless be a confidence-building arrangement.

"It is important that both the political parties and the peace movement work together. We should try to bring all these currents together into one rational unit," said Anker Jorgensen, and added, "There are groups in the peace movement who take aim on one side alone. But we must direct strong appeals to both East and West. Therefore this activity is important. To those who organized this conference, thank you for inviting me. So dear friends, which we are on this issue, let us work rationally for peace, and first and foremost against nuclear weapons development."

The question of choosing sides in the peace movement came forth when the statement on the conference was to be approved. A proposal for a slogan

"Freedom for Peace Work in East and West" was put forth by the two Socialist People's Party representatives Bjarne Jensen and Arne Larsen and the SiD vice chairman Ib Schelde, but was withdrawn. Ostensibly because the "basis for the slogan" was worn out and would not have results. But the debate revealed a large difference of opinion on the authorities' treatment of the peace movement in the East, and in order to avoid a ballot at the conference the proposal was withdrawn. Some participants were dissatisfied at that. Others said, "We will not have a confrontation now--we will work together to prepare for the Easter marchers."

In a statement to the government and the Folketing it was requested that Denmark should be declared a nuclear weapon-free zone in peacetime, in time of crisis and in war, and to begin negotiations to create a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Nordic countries and withdraw Denmark from NATO's nuclear planning group. The statement also said that Denmark's defense must be organized so that it could only be used and considered defensively, and that Denmark would not be a deployment area for one military bloc against another.

9287

CSO: 3613/134

NATO REACTION FEARED TO SDP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS DEMAND

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 11 Apr 84 p 6

[Article by Michael Ehrenreich: "Fear for NATO Reaction if Contribution Is Cancelled"]

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [SDP] Folketing group supports Anker Jorgensen's statement that 48 million kroner should be taken out of NATO's infrastructure program.

The government fears the reactions from other countries in the NATO alliance if SDP finally joins with the radicals [RV], the SF [Socialist People's Party] and VS [Left-Socialist Party] and carries out its plans to withdraw the Danish contribution from NATO's several-year infrastructure program.

Beyond political reactions, sources in the government anticipate counter-measures against already planned Danish defense projects financed by the infrastructure program if the Danish contribution to the infrastructure program is reduced by 48 million kroner.

The Social Democratic Folketing group agreed yesterday, after a short debate, with former prime minister Anker Jorgensen's statement that the money should be held for purely Danish defense projects. But the decision is regarded by a broad segment of the group as only temporary, because it will now be investigated whether the money can be used for a Danish defense project in connection with a project financed by the infrastructure program.

"The money should be used for a Danish project independent of the infrastructure program. If not, we run the risk of indirectly supporting the deployment of medium range missiles, and that we do not want to do," said defense spokesman Knud Damgaard.

He will now investigate different possibilities for a model which could tie a national Danish project together with a project financed by NATO funds.

"For example, one can immediately imagine that the current infrastructure program at Karup will later be connected to a surveillance installation financed by the 48 million kroner, which now adds to Danish defense. We know that such a surveillance system will have great value for the defense," said Knud Damgaard, who emphasized that the model has not yet been discussed in the Folketing group.

9287

CSO: 3613/134

POLL ON VOTING PREFERENCES, VIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 23 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] The "Quarterly Barometer of Public Opinion," for which LA LIBRE BELGIQUE has exclusive publishing rights, is handled by the Marketing Unit Company, a firm which has specialized in marketing studies and public opinion polls. (It is an affiliate of the Esomar-Febelmar group.)

The following poll was taken between 7 and 15 March 1984, using a sample of 2,187 Belgians 21 years of age and older, selected according to quotas in terms of sex, age, and social class. A total of 699 persons were polled in Wallonia; 977, in Flanders; and 511 in the region of Brussels-Hal-Vilvorde. The results were considered to reflect the importance of the regions of the country.

Thanks to this exclusive poll, LA LIBRE BELGIQUE provides its readers with the opportunity to follow, from quarter to quarter, the evolution of public opinion.

Voting Intentions

Question No 1: If there were parliamentary elections next Sunday, what political party would you vote for?

Refuse to Answer

<u>Motivation</u>	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Responded	70	70	69	71
Do not yet know whether they will vote	30	30	31	29

In a very similar way throughout Belgium three out of 10 Belgians do not yet know whether they will vote or for which party.

As we know that one of the three undecided voters will not vote, we can see the importance of the forthcoming election campaign.

Wallonia

<u>Parties</u>	<u>Poll of Spring 1984</u>	<u>Elections of Autumn 1981</u>	<u>Difference</u>
PS [Walloon Socialist Party]	36.0	36.2	-0.2
PRL [Walloon Liberal Party]	21.9	21.7	+0.2
PSC [Walloon Social Christian Party]	18.1	19.6	-1.5
Ecolo [Ecologist Party]	7.4	5.9	+1.5
Walloon Parties	5.8	5.5	+0.3
PC [Belgian Communist Party]	4.0	4.2	-0.2
Other Parties	6.8	6.9	-0.1

In the event of elections, the PRL would have strengthened its position over 1981 but not by very much. The rising "trend" of this party recorded over the past few months seems therefore to have stopped. The PSC, the other French-speaking party of the government majority, far from improving its position, continues to see it deteriorate.

The increase in the voting strength of the Ecologist Party remains considerable, while the socialist opposition does not seem to have benefited, since the PS is even below its voting level of 1981.

We note a slight improvement in the vote of the Walloon parties, due to communal agitation recently.

Brussels (Hal-Vilvorde)

Parties	Poll of Spring 1984	Elections of Autumn 1981	Difference
PRL	13.4	12.2	+1.2
CVP [Flemish Social Christian Party]	12.6	12.5	+0.1
PS	10.2	9.5	+0.7
FDF [French-Speaking Democratic Front]	10.1	17.4	-7.3
PVV [Flemish Liberal Party]	9.8	9.7	+0.1
VU [People's Union Party]	7.9	7.8	+0.1
PSC	6.9	7.2	-0.3
SP [Flemish Socialist Party]	6.3	6.4	-0.1
Ecolo/Agalev	4.5	3.6	+0.9
UDRT/RAD [Anti-Tax Party]	3.0	7.0	-4.0
Other parties	15.3	6.7	+8.6

The results in Brussels are difficult to analyze in view of the very noticeable decline of the FDF and the UDRT/RAD.

The changes in voting patterns essentially benefited the political parties listed as "other parties." We can conceive of a possible list of unaffiliated "blank" votes that would pick up about 7 to 8 percent of the total.

In Brussels the PRL has made much more noticeable progress than in Wallonia. It has become the leading party in the area. The PS is improving its position despite the loss of Simonet, while the vote for the Communist Party remains less than it received in 1981.

Flanders

<u>Parties</u>	<u>Poll in Spring 1984</u>	<u>Elections in Autumn 1981</u>	<u>Difference</u>
CVP	29.1	32.0	-2.9
SP	20.8	20.6	+0.2
PVV	20.5	21.1	-0.6
VU	16.5	16.0	+0.5
Agalev	6.0	4.0	+2.0
Other parties	7.1	6.3	+0.8

The most important fact to be noted is the poor support received by the CVP. It could lose nearly three percentage points by comparison with 1981 and fall below the level of 30 percent. Among the voters who are abandoning the CVP, there is probably a portion which would like to display "communal" tendencies. However, the People's Union Party [VU] is not picking up much of the fruits of this disaffection.

As distinguished from what is happening in Wallonia, the liberals are declining by comparison with 1981. The Flemish socialists are doing better than the PVV. The SP is thus becoming the second largest party in Flanders. Also in this region we are seeing a new breakthrough of the Ecologist Party.

Question No 2: In general, do you think that you will vote the same way in the next European elections, which will take place in June 1983 [as published; should be June 1984]?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Yes, probably	52	59	44	47
That depends on the candidates	13	10	16	16
That depends on how things turn out	14	11	18	15
Probably not	5	5	4	7
No opinion	16	15	18	15

We note that for the country as a whole more than one person out of two would vote in the European elections as he would vote in the elections for the Belgian

parliament. However, the fact remains that 48 percent of the persons polled have not yet made up their minds.

Question No 3: Regarding each of the following political parties, would you say that your opinion is generally good or bad?

<u>Parties</u>	<u>All of Belgium</u>		<u>Flanders</u>		<u>Wallonia</u>		<u>Brussels</u>	
	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
PS	23	43	15	51	34	29	23	47
PSC	15	47	7	46	24	32	19	47
PRL	19	46	6	59	26	35	43	37
FDF	10	52	2	68	11	32	28	40
SP	23	40	38	31	8	44	10	59
CVP	21	45	33	36	8	53	13	56
PVV	22	46	30	44	11	47	18	52
VU	19	49	33	34	1	61	9	67
Ecolo/Agalev	25	34	24	37	25	25	28	42

The purpose of this question is to measure the major, underlying tendencies in the life of the political parties. When a "good opinion" is higher than a "bad opinion," the political parties are on a kind of ascending curve, and the election results should "explode" onto the scene at a given point in time. In the reverse case the political parties are stagnating or are on the verge of losing their momentum.

Distortions often develop between the answers to this question and the announced voting intentions. In effect, we ask the persons polled to express their opinions on a political party which does not necessarily contest the elections in their region of the country. Furthermore, there is often a gap between the image which people have of a political party and the realities of an election. (For example, the positive image and the poor election results obtained by the French socialists for a long time.)

It should be noted that the political parties in one region do not generally do well in other regions. However, in Flanders the Flemish parties are better regarded than the French-speaking parties in Wallonia. However, an exception should be made for the PS.

In Flanders it is the SP which arouses the most positive opinions. The situation in which the PVV finds itself is not particularly good. In Brussels the PRL enjoys a good position, while the image of the FDF as a leader has notably deteriorated.

The Popularity of Political Figures

Question No 4: For each of the following list of personalities, would you tell me if you would like to see this person exercise substantial political influence in the next few months?

A list of 40 figures (20 French-speaking and 20 Dutch-speaking) was given to those polled. The list follows, in alphabetical order: Anciaux, Busquin, Claes, Cools, De Clercq, De Croo, Dehgene, Dehousse, Deprez, Dewulf, Eyskens, Galle, Geens, Glinne, Gol, Hansenne, Happart, Hatry, Hendrickx, Knoops, Martens, Maystadt, Michel (Louis), Moureaux (Philippe), Nols, Nothomb, Outers, Schiltz, Mrs Spaak, Spitaels, Swaelen, Tindemans, Tobback, Vanden Boyenants, Van den Brande, Vanderpoorten, Van Miert, Verhofstadt, Vreven, and Wathélet (Melchior).

The First Twenty in All of Belgium

<u>Name</u>	<u>Percent of Support</u>
1. Martens	46
2. Tindemans	38
3. Van Miert	33
4. Eyskens	33
5. De Clercq	31
6. Claes	29
7. Gol	25
8. Spitaels	23
9. Galle	22
10. Anciaux	22
11. Schiltz	22
12. Verhofstadt	22
13. De Croo	21
14. Nothomb	20
15. Geens	20
16. Maystadt	20
17. Cools	18
18. Happart	17
19. Swaelen	15
20. Nols	14

Martens, the prime minister, is the most popular politician in the country. Some 46 percent of Belgians 21 years old or older want Martens to exercise substantial influence in the coming months. (Some 54 percent evidently do not know him or do not want him to have important responsibilities.)

Tindemans recorded a strong second place and kept his popularity as a "possible future prime minister."

We should remember that the three regional "symbols" were included in the list of the 20 most highly regarded politicians: Galle, Happart, and Nols.

Michel and Deprez were not included in this national list of the 20 most highly regarded politicians.

Wallonia: the First 15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Percent of Support</u>
1. Martens	35
2. Happart	34
3. Maystadt	33
4. Gol	32
5. Spitaels	31
6. Nothomb	27
7. Cools	25
8. Dehousse	24
9. Mrs Spaak	24
10. Claes	23
11. Tindemans	21
12. Michel (Louis)	21
13. Deprez	21
14. Wathelet (Melchior)	20
15. De Clercq	20

In Wallonia it was also Martens who enjoyed the greatest expressions of positive popularity. Claes, Tindemans, and De Clercq also succeeded in figuring in this Walloon order of popularity.

The leading Walloon political figure, who can therefore claim the title of "Mr Wallonia," is Jose Happart, the mayor of Fourons. Three other figures follow him, closely bunched together: Maystadt (PSC), Gol (PRL), and Spitaels (PS).

Nothomb (PSC) is well up on the list since he precedes "pure and hard" figures like Cools and Dehousse. His firm attitude as minister of the interior has probably paid off in Wallonia.

Michel, president of the PRL, and Deprez, president of the PSC, were neck and neck in the same region.

Brussels: the First 15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Percent of Support</u>
1. Gol	41
2. Martens	40
3. Nols	34
4. De Clercq	32
5. Spitaels	25
6. Eyskens	24
7. Tindemans	24
8. Happart	24
9. Mrs Spaak	24
10. Maystadt	23
11. Claes	22
12. Nothomb	21
13. Michel (Louis)	19
14. De Croo	18
15. Outers	18

In Brussels it was paradoxically a man from Liege who was the most popular: Jean Gol, the deputy prime minister from the Liberal Party. His activities in the economic sector and his draft law on immigrants no doubt were the source of his popularity. He was followed, with only one point of difference, by Wilfried Martens. Nols and De Clercq placed high enough to strengthen the Liberal Party character which Brussels wishes to see given to political life.

It will also be noted that Happart did well in Brussels, for he received the same rating as Mrs Spaak.

Flanders: the First 15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Percent of Support</u>
1. Martens	55
2. Van Miert	55
3. Tindemans	54
4. Eyskens	49
5. Galle	42
6. De Clercq	38
7. Claes	36
8. Anciaux	36
9. Schiltz	36
10. Verhoofstadt	32
11. Geens	31
12. Swaelen	27
13. De Croo	26
14. Tobback	25
15. Vanderpoorten	23

First of all, it should be noted that the scores recorded in Flanders by the most popular are noticeably higher than in Wallonia and Brussels.

Wilfried Martens was also at the head of the list in Flanders, but he had to share first place with Van Miert, president of the SP who, while not a member of Parliament, has acquired the image of a leader of the first importance by basing himself on precise objectives (opposition to the stationing of American missiles, for example). Tindemans also retains a very good level of popularity in Flanders.

The "Galle" phenomenon--he is the author of a language proposal which has attracted a great deal of attention--is going ahead full speed since, the first time out, Galle is in fifth place.

The Concerns of the Belgian People

Question No 4: To resolve the problems presently facing Belgium, do you or do you not have confidence in the Martens government?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Full confidence	11	14	8	10
Tending toward confidence	29	27	26	40
Tending toward no confidence	16	16	16	12
No confidence	22	22	25	19
No opinion	22	21	25	19

Many people expressed "no opinion" (22 percent) in this judgment on the performance of the fifth Martens cabinet. For the whole country there were slightly more expressions of confidence (40 percent) than of no confidence (38 percent).

It was in Brussels (50 percent "for") that the government had the most support. However, negative votes carried the day in Wallonia (41 against 32 percent, with 25 percent holding no opinion). Flanders was moderately favorable to the government (41 percent expressing confidence, compared to 38 percent with negative views of the government).

Question No 5: In terms of foreign policy, is the present activity by the government effective or ineffective?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Very effective	2	2	2	2
Rather effective	18	18	16	20
Rather ineffective	23	25	21	20
Very ineffective	17	14	22	16
No opinion	40	41	39	42

This is a harsh blow for the government. Only one Belgian out of five considers that the government's foreign policy is effective, and this is the case in all parts of the country. It is true that those with "no opinion" (40 percent!) are as numerous as those who condemn the activities of the government in this field.

Question No 6: In terms of European policy, is the present activity of the government effective or ineffective?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Very effective	2	2	1	3
Rather effective	20	20	19	20
Rather ineffective	17	17	18	17
Very ineffective	15	10	24	15
No opinion	46	51	38	45

With only 3 months left before the European elections, nearly one Belgian out of two (the figure is particularly significant in Flanders, where it is 51 percent) admits to being unable to express an opinion on the European policy of the government. Here, also, negative judgments won out over positive opinions, more particularly in Wallonia.

Question No 7: In terms of the fight against unemployment, are the government's actions effective or ineffective?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Very effective	1	1	1	1
Rather effective	10	10	7	17
Rather ineffective	30	32	25	34
Very ineffective	38	33	51	27
No opinion	21	24	16	21

A harsh verdict for the government: more than two Belgians out of three (68 per cent) question the effectiveness of the government's efforts concerning unemployment. This is the case throughout the country: in Brussels (61 percent) as in Flanders (65 percent), and especially in Wallonia (76 percent).

Question No 8: In the struggle against the loss of purchasing power, has the present policy of the government been effective or ineffective?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Very effective	1	1	1	1
Rather effective	8	9	7	10
Rather ineffective	31	34	25	35
Very ineffective	37	31	51	29
No opinion	23	25	16	25

The government has found no more success in terms of public support on the question of purchasing power. The views of more than two Belgians out of three are negative. In this case also the verdict in Wallonia is the most severe (76 percent), coming ahead of Flanders (65 percent) and Brussels (64 percent).

Question No 9: In terms of communal relations, is the present policy of the government effective or ineffective?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Very effective	1	1	1	1
Rather effective	9	12	6	7
Rather ineffective	24	27	20	23
Very ineffective	33	21	46	41
No opinion	33	39	27	28

Even though there are many of those polled who have "no opinion"--one Belgian out of three--public opinion does not take a positive view of the government's actions in the field of communal relations. The government is only satisfying one Belgian out of 10 in this regard. The most negative views are found in Wallonia (66 percent are critical) and in Brussels (64 percent). This leads to the conclusion that the French-speaking population is more dissatisfied than the Flemish population (13 percent think that government policy has been positive, while 48 percent are negative).

Question No 10: In your view, what action should the government take, as a matter of priority?

	<u>All of Belgium</u>	<u>Flanders</u>	<u>Wallonia</u>	<u>Brussels</u>
Fight against unemployment	78	75	85	74
Fight against inflation	49	41	67	39
Reduce taxes	47	45	51	47
Resolve communal problems	28	18	36	41
Fight against violence and insecurity	27	15	43	33
Favor social peace	27	19	40	29
Resolve problem of immigrant workers	24	15	31	37
Improve education	16	8	23	24

Total results amount to more than 100 percent because multiple answers were accepted.

Unemployment, which was well ahead (with 78 percent of the total and even 85 percent in Wallonia), is clearly the principal concern of Belgians, coming ahead of inflation and taxes. The solution of communal problems (28 percent) was only in fourth place, even though this was regarded as more desirable in Brussels (41 percent) than elsewhere. The immigration problem (24 percent) is also more sensitive in Brussels (37 percent) than in Wallonia (31 percent) and in Flanders (15 percent). The fundamental concern of the Walloons is with inflation (67 percent), taxes (51 percent), violence (43 percent) and social peace (40 percent), all areas where they are more sensitive than other Belgians are.

5170

CSO: 3619/55

KLEVEN REELECTED CHAIRMAN AT COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 2 Apr 84 p 5

[Article: "Self-Critical NKP Wants to Participate Actively"]

[Text] The Communists want to resume active participation in this country's political activities. This was made clear at the party congress of the Norwegian Communist Party (NKP), which was held in Oslo last weekend. There was sharp self-criticism within the party for being too introspective. The reelected party chairman Hans I. Kleven, said in his keynote speech to the congress that he believed the party had taken good stands and made good statements on important issues.

"But we have usually been satisfied with resolutions, published them in FRIHETEN, and sometimes published our own material. And that is all we have done," the party chairman said. He stated that there had been little follow-up work to make the party's views known. This opinion was shared by most of the 111 delegates to the congress.

The congress demanded that efforts be stepped up to bring about a treaty making the Nordic countries a nuclear-free zone. The government and parliament must be pressured to make a serious effort toward such a treaty.

Both party chairman Hans I. Kleven and the editor of the party newspaper FRIHETEN, Arne Jorgensen, were reelected.

9336

CSO: 3639/102

LIBERALS AT PARTY CONGRESS ALIGN WITH LABOR PARTY

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 27 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Liberals Choose Sides"]

[Text] Around the time of its national congress last year, the Liberal Party defined its role roughly as follows: To be like sour dough. There was great bitterness over the fact that the Christian Democrat and Center parties ostensibly had "weakened the center" and "hog-tied" themselves to the Conservatives--a bitterness which in any case has not lessened since then. With its alternative banner hoisted high, the Liberals would be backward in order that its ideas could permeate Norwegian politics--like a sour dough.

The party was rewarded for this with 3.5-4.0 percent support. There is much which suggests that the voters still do not find a sufficient consistency in all of the Liberals' "alternatives." But it is obvious that a party which consistently rejects as uninteresting all discussion about the government's power and a "side election," is also uninteresting to the voters. The feeling of wandering in "the valley of shadows" has become pronounced, for the Liberals' leaders as well.

It was in the cards that the party needed to begin to think somewhat about power and influence. It was also in the cards that the party would orient itself in the direction of the Labor Party. It can be correctly noted that the two parties have taken similar positions in recent years on a variety of matters in Parliament. But it was surprising that the process should acquire such momentum that the signals should be so clear and come so quickly.

The Liberals' national congress last weekend left no doubt: The party now seeks power, and the Labor Party is the natural cooperative partner. Both party leaders and an overwhelming majority of the county chairmen supported such a model in advance--something to which the national congress also said a clear "yes."

The continuing process will show what the Liberals accomplish vis-a-vis the Labor Party concerning the treasured "green" matters and alternative ideas. One of the points involves defense and security policies. An "alternative NATO"--free of nuclear weapons, without increased defense appropriations and simultaneously reliability--are put forth as a goal of the party. It is also

worth noting that even this position was too weak for a good portion of the national congress delegates. A substantial minority voted for Norwegian withdrawal from NATO. The Liberals hold a unique position in this regard among Norwegian parties.

The national congress was also occupied with delineating a front against the Conservatives. All the talk about being "hog-tied" to this party nonetheless cannot conceal the fact the three governing parties have similar views on many matters and that they strongly support the policies being carried out. The Liberals' front therefore necessarily must also include the Christian Democrat and Center parties. The Liberals are now striving to create clear alternatives before the next parliamentary election.

The Labor Party contents itself now with expressing pleasure over the support from Rossbach's and Dorum's party. Quite understandably one must delay speculating over what form a possible cooperation will take. If, for example, the Liberals continue with their two parliamentary representatives and 4-5 percent backing, it is not certain that the talks will be particularly longlasting. A side election in and of itself does not necessarily guarantee increased support.

12578

CS0: 3639/97

NOI POLL CONFIRMS TREND OF VOTERS' RETURN TO CONSERVATIVES

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 27 Mar 84 p 9

[Article: "Voters Continue on Course Toward Conservatives"]

[Text] The steady stream of voters back to the Conservatives continues. After having fallen all the way down to 62 percent voter stability in October last year, the figure is now all the way up to 80 percent--the highest figure since April, 1983. The Labor Party's corresponding figure is 87 percent, one percent below the October figure, in the Norwegian Opinion Institute/AFTENPOSTEN study of voter stability in February.

In comparison with October, there is an increase for the Christian Democrat Party, a decrease for the Center Party and the Socialistic Left Party. The margin of uncertainty for these parties is significant at the moment. As many as 17 percent of Liberal voters say that they will vote for another party--more than eight times as many as in December.

The figures show how large a portion of those who voted for a party in 1981, would vote for the same party now if there were a parliamentary election. The Labor Party, at its peak, had 91 percent, and was down in February to 87 percent. The Socialistic Left Party reached its maximum of 84 percent in January this year and is down to 72 percent now.

As stated, the Conservatives are now at the top. The Christian Democrat Party was at the same level in November last year as now, with 87 percent. The Center Party in October could count on 88 percent, but remained stable at 72 percent in January and February.

The Liberals hit bottom at 39 percent in August, a peak of 77 percent in December, and are now down to 57 percent.

Of the 500 men in the study, 65 percent will vote for the same party, while 67 percent of the 502 women responded similarly. The percentages of uncertainty were 20 and 17 percent, respectively.

Party loyalty increases with age, from 37 percent for those under age 30 to 90 percent for those over the age of 60. Geographic variables range from 61-62 percent in the Oslo area and in Trondelag northern Norway, to 73 percent

in the eastern part of the country outside of Oslo and Akershus. The southern and western parts of the country are at 64 percent. This is an increase for Oslo and Akershus in relation to December.

The desire to support the same party now as in the parliamentary election in 1981 increases for higher income brackets. Of those with income over 160,000 kroner, 63 percent belong to this group of respondents, while 70 percent vote for the same party and have incomes under 100,000 kroner. This represents small changes from the previous poll.

Among Labor Party voters, there are 4 percent who with certainty would vote for another party now (3 percent in December), the Progress Party 3 percent, (6), Conservatives 7 percent (7), Christian Democrat Party 1 percent (0), Center Party 0 percent (7), Socialist Left Party 6 percent (7) and the Liberals 17 percent (2).

Question: Did you vote in the parliamentary election in 1981? If "yes": If there were a parliamentary election tomorrow is it absolutely certain that you would vote for the same party as last time, or would you weigh the possibility of voting for another party, or would you with certainty vote for another party, or would you likely not vote, or are you uncertain as to what you would do?

The percentage total of party supporters for 1981 who with certainty would vote for the same party in a parliamentary election tomorrow:

	1981				1984	
	Apr %	June %	Sep %	Nov %	Jan %	Feb %
Labor	81	82	86	91	87	87
Progress	70	56	65	78	66	58
Conservative	79	79	75	70	67	80
Christian Democrat	86	80	81	87	78	87
Center	79	79	83	66	72	72
Socialist Left	72	75	69	69	84	72
Liberal	49	54	63	58	61	57

The number of people questioned in the various monthly samplings is between 30 and 60 for all parties other than the Labor Party and the Conservatives. The margin of error for these other parties therefore must be reckoned as being significant. The Conservatives position is better.

The figures pertain only to a parliamentary election.

Norwegian Opinion Institute A/S

VOTERS IN POLL FIND HAGEN IS MOST EFFECTIVE PARTY CHAIRMAN

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 3 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Thorleif Andreassen]

[Text] Carl I. Hagen received the highest marks from the voters: 76 percent believe that the Progressive Party chairman is doing a good job for his party. He was followed by Hanna Kvanmo of SV (Socialist Left Party) and Kjell Magne Bondevik of the Christian People's Party (KRF), with 75 percent and 69 percent, respectively. The Liberal Party chairman came out worst with 43 percent. But Odd Einar Dorum is one of the few who recorded increased voter confidence: a 2-percent increase for Dorum since November last year. Jo Benkow had the greatest advance, with a 9-percent rise.

This was indicated by the NOI/AFTENPOSTEN opinion poll on leading politicians. The poll was taken in February. On the whole, the figures were stable. Apart from Benkow and Dorum, Gro Harlem Brundtland also registered an advance, compared to the November figures: 67 percent believe that the Labor Party chairman is doing a good job. That is 3 percent higher than last year.

Johan J. Jakobsen of the Center Party remained steady at 65 percent, compared to 65 percent last year. The figures indicated above refer to all respondents.

Of course, the figures for the various politicians are higher when only their own voters are considered.

In this case, the figures are 87 percent (+2) for Gro Harlem Brundtland, 90 percent (-10) for Hanna Kvanmo, 79 percent (+3) for Jo Benkow, 87 percent (-9) for Kjell Magne Bondevik, 83 percent (-4) for Johan J. Jakobsen, 93 percent (-6) for Carl I. Hagen, and 78 percent for Odd Einar Dorum. This is a major advance of 15 percent, compared to the November poll. Most of our leading politicians, however, are losing ground among their own voters.

Gro Harlem Brundtland won the greatest approval among women (69 percent) and 5 percent lower among men. She has the greatest level of confidence in the under-30 age group: 69 percent of this group believe Ms Harlem Brundtland is doing a good job for her party. Her strongest districts are North Norway and Trondelag. Her work was approved by 71 percent in these regions.

Hanna Kvanmo's popularity is evenly distributed among men and women (75 percent). Her strongest appeal is among the 30 to 59 year age group (80 percent). Kvanmo is strong in Oslo, Bergen, and Trondheim, where 81 percent approve of her work. This was also true of 80 percent in North Norway and Trondelag, however.

Jo Benkow's popularity is greatest among women and in the over-60 age group. Benkow's work was approved by 62 percent of the women and 60 percent of the men, as well as 63 percent of the voters over 60 years of age. Benkow is strongest in Oslo and Akershus. In these areas, 68 percent answered that Jo Benkow was doing a good job for the Conservative Party.

Kjell Magne Bondevik also received high marks among women: 70 percent of them said Bondevik was doing a good job. Among men, 3 percent fewer shared this opinion. In Sorland and Vestland, 73 percent gave the KRF chairman high marks.

Johan J. Jakobsen is equally popular among women and men (65 percent) and is highest regarded in the over-60 age group (69 percent). Jakobsen scored highest in Oslo and Akershus, where 70 percent approved his work.

Carl I. Hagen is clearly on top: 80 percent of the men and 72 percent of the women stated that Hagen was doing a good job for FRP. Oslo, Bergen, and Trondheim are his best "stomping grounds." In these regions, 86 percent answered that Hagen was doing a good job.

Odd Einar Dorum also had his greatest support among men: 44 percent stated that they approved his work. This opinion was shared by 3 percent of the women. Dorum is strongest in sparsely populated areas (48 percent), but also in Oslo and Akershus (48 percent).

If the leaders' own party supporters are disregarded, the popularity of the politicians among other voters is as follows: Gro Harlem Brundtland received the greatest approval among Liberal Party, SV, and SP (Center Party) voters, with 76 percent, 74 percent, and 59 percent, respectively. She was least popular among Conservative Party voters, 46 percent of whom believed she was doing a poor job for AP (Labor Party).

Hanna Kvanmo received high marks from the Liberal Party (89 percent), SP (86 percent), and AP (81 percent). Kvanmo is least popular among KRF voters. In this party, 49 percent stated that Ms Kvanmo was unworthy of approval.

Jo Benkow received the most support from the Liberal Party (79 percent--just as much support, by the way, as he received from his own party), SP (63 percent), and KRF (54 percent). SV is the party in which the most supporters believe that Benkow is doing a poor job (44 percent).

Kjell Magne Bondevik received the greatest praise from the Conservative Party and the SP voters. Both groups gave him 79 percent. They were followed by the Liberal Party with 78 percent. Thirty percent of the FRP voters disapproved of Bondevik's performance.

Johan J. Jakobsen received his greatest approval among Conservative Party supporters (80 percent), Liberal Party voters (77 percent), and KRF supporters

(71 percent). Among FRP voters, 32 percent believe the SP chairman is not doing a good job for his party.

An impressive 96 percent of the Liberal Party voters said that Carl I. Hagen was doing well. The Liberals were followed by the Conservative Party with 90 percent and SV with 81 percent. AP is the party that least values Hagen's efforts: 27 percent responded that he was doing a poor job.

More Liberal Party voters believed Hagen was doing a good job for FRP than believed that Odd Einar Dorum was doing a good job for the Liberal Party. Dorum received a positive response from 78 percent of his own voters, 57 percent of the SV voters, 49 percent of the AP sympathizers, and 48 percent of the SP people. Odd Einar Dorum is weakest among KRF voters. Among them, 39 percent gave Dorum poor marks.

Question: Do you believe the party leader is doing a good or a poor job for his party?

Doing a good job:

Evaluated by all respondents.

	1983		1984
	Aug %	Nov %	Feb %
Gro Harlem Brundtland	57	64	67
Hanna Kvanmo	71	76	75
Jo Benkow	68	52	61
Kjell Magne Bondevik	72	69	69
Johan J. Jakobsen	65	65	65
Carl I. Hagen	70	75	76
Hans Hammond Rossbach	44	-	-
Odd Einar Dorum	-	41	43

Conservative Benkow has regained much of his former trust, while the figures for the others are extremely stable.

Evaluated by own party supporters

	%	%	%
Gro Harlem Brundtland	82	85	87
Hanna Kvanmo	97	100	90
Jo Benkow	90	76	79
Kjell Magne Bondevik	92	96	87
Johan J. Jakobsen	92	87	83
Carl I. Hagen	95	99	93
Hans Hammond Rossbach	73	-	-
Odd Einar Dorum	-	63	78

In the figures for the parties' own supporters, there were fewer than 100 respondents for all parties other than the Labor Party and the Conservative Party.

EXAMINATION OF MADRID'S 'CONFUSED' MIDEAST POLICY

Madrid ABC in Spanish 8 Apr 84 p 30

[Article by Alberto Miguez: "Moran's Visit to the Mideast: Another Episode in the Confused Diplomacy of the Government"]

[Text] The week-long trip of Fernando Moran, minister of foreign affairs, through Saudi Arabia, Syria and Egypt, can be put down as one more episode in Spain's confused diplomacy with respect to the Middle East, according to the specialists in such matters. In the first place, the minister should have concentrated his efforts on economic and political questions of some breadth against the backdrop represented by the recognition of Israel. According to official sources, that would have been a way to "drive home" the successes achieved by President Felipe Gonzalez.

And it would also have shown an intent to assert in that area the international role of Spain, which was, and continues to be, minimal. At the height of the journalistic frenzy, some media went so far as to suggest that the Madrid government could serve as mediator in the conflict between Iran and Iraq, which was something unachieved by either the Arab League or by countries as influential in the area as Algeria and Saudi Arabia itself.

"Spain does much for the Arabs; it is to be hoped that the Arabs will do enough for Spain," said Mr Moran on his arrival in Madrid on Friday, as he added the finishing touch to his ever extravagant and somewhat verbose rhetorical effusions. The minister felt that the reception accorded him in Jordan and Syria, where he was received by King Hussein and President Assad, was definite proof of the importance attributed by the Arab world to our country on the eve of its entry into the EEC. According to Moran, Spain could become the mouthpiece of the Arab world in dealing with Europe: a reformed version of the "bridge theory," which was so extravagant and so futilely put to use long ago in planning our relations with Latin America.

Moran also stated that the countries he had recently visited realized that our country is a state with sovereign power to make foreign policy decisions that it deems appropriate (read "the recognition of Israel") without the need of

consultation. It was again made obvious that the socialist government regards as a matter of spectacular importance the thorny question of an exchange of ambassadors between Spain and Israel, a draft bill on which question was left "on the desk" of the socialist executive, according to a detailed account made by former minister Perez Llorca.

It seems increasingly evident each day that the government is losing "its opportunity" in this matter as in others involving diplomacy. This is what happened to the first cabinet of the monarchy, despite the repeated statements of Mr Areliza. This is also what happened to his successors, Marcelino Oreja and the aforementioned Perez Llorca. And this can happen to the first socialist government, which chose to wait for the so-called "objective conditions" before taking a step that becomes more problematic as time passes in proportion to the extent to which it bogs down in unattainable objectives such as "support for the pacification process in the area" and the solution of the Palestinian problem.

In fact, it is a matter of concern that every time the recognition of Israel is brought up, from upper levels of the government and from the chancellery as well comes a reply citing the Jewish "lobby" in Spain or the United States and the denial that pressures, in some cases prejudicial to Spanish sovereignty, are being exerted by certain Arab countries. These were the terms used by the president himself, Felipe Gonzalez, during his lengthy conversation last Thursday with the Association of European Journalists, as he recalled that of the 21 questions addressed to him in the European Council, 9 had to do with Israel.

In dealing with this subject, Mr Moran, who participated in a secret interview with high ranking representatives of Israel in Spain and elsewhere, uses deceptive language and impossible syntax. He pacifies some with fine words and winks, then attempts to convince others (with the old story about Spain's "traditional friendship with the Arab world") and postpones arriving at decisions until the Middle East conflict is settled. In a less solemn, less pompous tone, Prime Minister Gonzalez seems to have decided to go along the same path.

It remains to be seen whether the "1001 Nights" contracts which the Spanish chancellor seems to have brought with him in his briefcase (vast projects in Arabia, war materiel in Jordan) are not a new version of the neocolonial technique known as the "stick and carrot" but now in reverse. The Spanish executive will always have an abundance of arguments with which to justify the continued postponement of the question: The coming elections in Israel, the PSOE convention [Spanish Socialist Workers Party], the withdrawal from Lebanon, the resolution of the Palestinian problem, the entry into the EEC, are pretexts under which an attempt is being made to dodge a question which, because it is manipulated, will become a pending topic that will produce only yawns of boredom on the part of the public. The government lacks decisiveness and confidence in its own position and is the victim of the various pressures that it denies exist, and of its own rhetoric, which it secretes to the delight of some, the disappointment of many and the confusion of almost everybody.

ADELSOHN MANEUVERING TO FORM MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN 1985

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 31 Mar 84 p 6

[Commentary by Sven Svensson: "Now Everybody Is Making up With Everybody"]

[Text] Complete anarchy has suddenly broken out in the political arena. Everybody is making up with everybody, but even so, the old customary division between blocs is as firm as ever.

Social Democrats and Conservatives are falling into each other's arms over the harnessing of rivers, a cutback in dental training, lower government subsidies for the maintenance of private roads, and construction of the bridge over the Sound.

Social Democrats and Center Party members are embracing each other on the issues of limiting the right of private physicians to practice in university towns and postponing advertising on television. As a result, they are being ardently jeered by the Conservatives.

And perhaps we will even see a marriage of convenience between Social Democrats and Liberal Party members on the issue of aid to developing countries.

All of this is a struggle between centralists and decentralists in politics. When the Social Democrats want help from the centralists and the representatives of big industry, they turn to the Conservatives. When they want help from the decentralists, their eyes fall on the Center Party.

New Force Field

This means that a new force field appeared in politics during the time of the minority governments. And it runs right down the middle of the big parties--the Social Democrats and the Conservatives.

In the Social Democratic Party, the new force field is helping to cause convulsions among women, young people, and Christian groups. In the Conservative Party, antagonisms are arising between market liberals and groups which, in a more traditional spirit, advocate a concern for social welfare and Christian values. The antagonisms could be seen most obviously in the comments on the new party program.

But although a new force field has appeared in politics, the division into blocs is as firm as ever. What is new is that despite that, it is no longer felt that a nonsocialist three-party coalition will be a historical necessity if a nonsocialist majority emerges from the 1985 parliamentary election.

The only thing really certain is that the emergence of a nonsocialist majority in Parliament in the next election will mean the formation of a nonsocialist government of some kind that will rescind the decision on wage earner funds.

What that government will look like is an open question. The election results will determine whether it is to be a government consisting of one, two, or three parties.

Struggle

The struggle between decentralists and centralists will be a new element in the formation of a nonsocialist government if there is to be one.

Each of those two groups has its own party and its own candidate for prime minister. Conservative Party leader Ulf Adelsohn represents the centralists, while Center Party leader Thorbjorn Falldin represents the decentralists. And Bengt Westerberg (Liberal Party) is in fact Falldin's prisoner, since it would be out of the question for him to join with the Conservatives.

Political initiative will lie wherever the nonsocialist voters place the center of gravity. The election outcome is of importance as regards both the policy that will be pursued and the government that will be formed.

A nonsocialist majority in Parliament will require about 48 percent of the vote, since a vote for small parties does not count as far as a seat in Parliament is concerned.

The result is that if the Conservatives win over 24 percent of the vote, that will increase the probability of a Conservative minority government. And that is a very likely development, since the Conservatives received 23.6 percent in the 1982 election.

Secrecy

It is an open secret that Center Party leader Thorbjorn Falldin will not join a new nonsocialist three-party coalition dominated by the Conservatives and headed by Ulf Adelsohn. Policy would be too heavily dominated by the Right and too centralized. Moreover, as a former prime minister, Falldin feels that it would be an insult.

A Conservative minority government would constantly have to compromise with the Left--often perhaps with Social Democratic centralists. And the result would be one debate after another about betrayal as the Conservatives tried to keep their election promises. The Center Party would take great malicious delight in watching the Conservatives govern themselves out of business within a few months.

If Middle Parties Are Largest

The alternative possibility is that the middle parties will win bigger than the Conservatives. That is not an impossibility. In the public opinion polls, the Center Party has stabilized slightly below its election result, but experience shows that the party makes a strong spurt in elections. The Liberal Party has strengthened its position since electing a new party leader. A 2- or 3-percent increase for the middle parties at the expense of the Conservatives is not an impossibility, and the election is still a year and a half away.

The Conservative Party is operating on the assumption that there will be a non-socialist three-party coalition because the idea of a Conservative one-party government frightens people. The question is how much support exists in public opinion for a three-party coalition, considering that two such governments broke up during two consecutive electoral periods.

Wrong Signals

The fact that Adelsohn is trying in every way to lay the groundwork for a new three-party coalition explains why the Conservatives have toned down their Russophobia and gone along with a defense agreement that many Conservatives consider too unsatisfactory. Adelsohn has also given his party members orders not to attack the Center and Liberal Parties in the debate. But for Adelsohn, it is a constant source of worry that SVENSKA DAGBLADET's editorial writers are constantly sending the wrong signals to the Center Party.

11798

CSO: 3650/165

PAPER EXAMINES CHANCES FOR NONSOCIALIST COALITION IN 1985

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 1 Apr 84 p 2

[Editorial by Olof Kleberg: "New Three-Party Coalition?"]

[Text] A third nonsocialist three-party coalition after the 1985 election--does that sound like nothing more than an April Fool's joke? After two attempts and two failures, the climate of public opinion and the climate for cooperation both ought to be very bad.

But there is more unity than before. And the possibilities for replacing the socialist majority are quite good, especially if the Social Democrats fail with their bold economic strategy.

The most important reason why doubts have declined so markedly is probably the fact that the classic problem of right and left has now taken center stage in the political debate: the role of government, collective power, the place of the business community in society, public versus private, and so on. The "green wave" has ebbed, not because the problems it raised have become less important, but because of obvious economic difficulties close to everyday life.

Moreover, the chances for resolving the serious economic imbalance through broad cooperation between the party blocs has grown minimal. Theoretically, that type of solution is needed to guarantee lasting, serious, and singleminded austerity. In practice, it is not possible. Untested neoliberal models have won strong support among nonsocialist voters. The Social Democrats have shown emphatically that they want to pursue cooperation only on the government's conditions.

On one point--the idea that cooperation with the Social Democrats will be out of the question if there is a nonsocialist majority after the 1985 election--there is almost total agreement among all the writers in POLITISK TIDSKRIFT's excellent issue devoted to three-party cooperation. Bo Toresson, Social Democratic party secretary, appeals for cooperation, however, writing that "what we have learned from the 6 years of nonsocialist government is that it is not possible in the long run to base a policy on a rejection of open dialogue among the parties."

If only the Social Democrats could take that lesson with them the next time they wind up in the opposition! Lars Engqvist, editor in chief of the Social

Democratic ARBETET, makes it clear in his article that Olof Palme deliberately pursued an adamant opposition policy the last time. To avoid an agonizing internal debate over the election defeat, "a clearly defined enemy" was needed. That drove the nonsocialist parties together--a more open attitude toward the Liberal Party government in 1978-1979 and the middle-party government in 1981-1982 might have led to cooperation, says Engqvist. But the Social Democrats wasted their chance.

Conservative Carl Bildt and Liberal Party leader Bengt Westerberg recommend in POLITISK TIDSKRIFT that there be nonsocialist three-party cooperation. The main reason is the need for a strong government. Its basis would be their common approach to economic policy and the promise to work together in abolishing the wage earner funds. They also emphasize the need for the courage to stand by their own policy without glancing furtively at the Social Democrats.

No leading Center Party member with similar views was called in to back them up in this journal of ideas published by the Center Party. The Center Party's independence is emphasized in varying degrees. The Youth Association's members want the Center Party to form a third bloc, evidently by staying out of any government.

The three nonsocialist parties agree on abolition of the wage earner funds, austerity, and deregulation. But they disagree on many things. The fight for greater freedom as presented by Bengt Westerberg at the Liberal Party's annual meeting of county associations in Stockholm yesterday differed from that presented by the Conservatives. Sweden is described as "an unusually free society" by the Liberals, while the Conservatives consider it almost totalitarian. Demands for freedom often conflict with demands for fairness, and freedom cannot always be allowed to prevail, said Westerberg.

But the Center Party differs most clearly from each of the other two. Not only because of its "green" profile, but also because of its more favorable view of the public sector and of political control.

SVENSKA DAGBLADET has said that the Center Party must either become "a political zero" or completely reconsider matters if a nonsocialist policy for dealing with the crisis is to be effective.

Sven-Erik Larsson, former editor in chief of DAGENS NYHETER, says in POLITISK TIDSKRIFT that the antagonisms are too great to allow a three-party coalition to function. Instead, he recommends an agreement in advance on what to do if there is a nonsocialist majority in 1985. If the Conservative Party is stronger than the middle parties, it will be allowed to form a minority government. If the middle parties are stronger, they will form a coalition. It is not impossible that that may happen. Minority governments can be more energetic than splintered majority governments.

But essentially, it will be unity or disunity that decides which government can be formed. And so far, we know too little about that.

11798

CSO: 3650/165

GENERAL O. K. LIND NAMED ARMED FORCES COMMANDER

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 11 Apr 84 pp 1, 7

[Article by Michael Ehrenreich: "Highest Defense Chiefs Shifted"]

[Text] Lieutenant General O. K. Lind is relieving General Knud Jorgensen as chief of defense. During the autumn the entire defense will implement one of the greatest command shuffles in many years.

A long list of command positions in the highest defense leadership will change during the autumn as elements of the greatest command shuffle seen in the defense forces in many years.

Twelve of Denmark's 18 home generals and admirals will be moved in the shuffle, which was begun by the government yesterday on the recommendation of Minister of Defense Hans Engell.

The background for the extensive changes is that a number of commanders will exceed the age limit during the autumn.

The new chief of defense following General Knud Jorgensen will be Lieutenant General O. K. Lind, who is at present serving at Karup, where he is commander of the operating forces and commander of the Unitary Command for the Southern Region of the Northern NATO Region, also called BALTAP.

Also two land commands, the Home Guard and the Navy Operational Command will get new commanders as elements of the extensive defense shuffle.

Otto K. Lind, 63, graduated from the Army Officers School in 1943, was later company commander and battalion commander in the Queens Life Regiment, office chief in the Ministry of Defense and section chief in the Army Staff. O. K. Lind was named Colonel in 1971, became commander of the First Jutland Brigade in 1973, then major general and commander of the Eastern Land Command until 1980.

The next chief of defense refused yesterday to issue a statement of his program or comment about his promotion to general. "We can talk after 1 October," he said to BERLINGSKE.

His nomination was the signal for an extensive shuffle within the defense leadership.

The new commander of the operational defense forces and BALTAP will be Major General N.-Aa. Rye Andersen, who is now commander of the Eastern Land Command. This post will be taken over by the present commander of the Western Land Command, Major General H. T. Havning.

Chief of the Personnel Staff, Major General P. B. Krogen will be the new commander of the Western Land Command, and will be relieved by Rear Admiral J. O. Fisher, who is at the moment commander of the Naval Operational Forces.

The new commander of the Naval Operational Forces will be the present commander of the Frigate Squadron, Commodore J. F. Bork. Commander of the Home Guard will be Colonel R. Gottlieb, who is commander of the Second Jutland Brigade, and from 1 May the chief of staff of the Home Guard. The chief of the Operations and Planning Staff, Air Force Major General B. E. Amlø, will be the deputy commander in chief on the staff of the commander in chief of the Combined Defense Forces in Northern Europe. The position shifts between Denmark and Norway.

Major General B. E. Amlø will be relieved by Major General P. Thorsen, who is inspector for the Air Force and also chief of the Air Staff. The new commander of that area will be the commander of the Skrydstrup Air Base, Colonel B. V. Larsen.

Inspector of the Navy and also chief of the Naval Staff will be Rear Admiral J. P. Rasmussen, who will be relieved as chief of the Naval Material Staff by the present section chief Colonel T. K. Sørensen. The new chief of the Navy Material Command will temporarily be Rear Admiral H. D. Hansen, who is chief of staff of the Unitary Command for the Southern Region of NATO's Northern Region.

9287

CSO: 3613/134

POLL: DEFENSE AMONG AREAS VOTERS WOULD CUT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 18 Apr 84 p 3

[Article: "Take From Defense"]

[Text] A rather considerable percentage of Norwegians think that appropriations for unprofitable State businesses and for the armed forces should be able to be reduced in favor of increased State subsidies for social security. This comes from Norwegian Opinion Institute's poll for AFTENPOSTEN.

After those interviewed had been asked whether they themselves were willing to pay more for the financing of social security, the following question was asked:

"Another way to finance social security is for the State to appropriate the necessary money. Then the State will have to either increase taxes or reduce appropriations for other purposes."

"What do you prefer--more taxes or smaller appropriations for other purposes?"

Here 49 percent of those asked answered that they would prefer more taxes, while an exactly equal percentage--49 percent--advocated smaller appropriations for other purposes. The latter answer was given by 5 percent more men than women. Of those who advocated more taxes, the fewest were in the under-30 age group, i.e., 42 percent, while the most supporters of reductions for other purposes, a total of 60 percent, were in the same age group. Supporters of more taxes showed a slightly increasing trend in older age groups.

If one looks at the geographical distribution of the answers, there were the fewest in Oslo/Akershus who preferred more taxes (35 percent) and the most who wanted smaller appropriations for other purposes (63 percent). South and West Norway had approximately the same distribution of answers.

Which Purposes?

We had drafted a list of various areas in which the public sector is involved and we asked the question:

"For which one or ones of these purposes do you think appropriations should be reduced?"

The answers were as follows:

Educational system	1 percent
Public health system	6 percent
Unprofitable State businesses	51 percent
Agriculture	17 percent
Fisheries	11 percent
Armed forces	39 percent
Roads	3 percent
Railroads	6 percent
Aid to developing countries	7 percent
Other	5 percent
Do not know	9 percent

Aid to Developing Countries

Aid to developing countries had not been entered on our list, but during the interviewing there were 7 percent anyway who, unrequested, mentioned aid to developing countries as an area in which there should be cutbacks. An interesting question is how large the percentage would have been if aid to developing countries had appeared on the list.

Unprofitable State businesses are obviously a high-priority target for cutbacks when the people themselves receive an opportunity to express their opinion. In Oslo/Akershus, for example, there is a whole 61 percent who think that there is money to be taken from here which should be able to be used to advantage for financing of social security. In the counties of Trøndelag and in North Norway it is only 25 percent who share this view.

Armed Forces

It is of course especially thought-provoking that as many as 39 percent have stated that the armed forces are a suitable target for cutbacks. And this is true of a whole 48 percent of those asked in the under-30 age group. As slightly older age groups are gradually reached, there is a decreasing percentage who think that armed forces appropriations ought to be able to be attacked. Nevertheless, many will certainly be surprised that the total is as high as it in fact is.

For that matter, what can the reason be that 75 percent of those asked in the counties of Trøndelag and North Norway really think that we should be able to manage with lower appropriations for the armed forces? It is surely easier to understand that in the northern counties there is an entire 25 percent who can fancy reducing the State appropriations for railroads. That they thereby have written off the possibility of an extension of the North Norway Railroad is of course a completely different matter.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND CRITICIZED FOR LAXITY IN SUB HUNT

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 18 Apr 84 p 11

[Article by Terje Avner: "No Play Acting, Armed Forces Command Says: All-Out Effort in Submarine Hunts"]

[Text] Two coast guard vessels with sonar of the "non-military type," a helicopter without detection equipment and usable only as a visual lookout post. This is what the South Norway Armed Forces Command has put into action in the search for a possible foreign submarine along the Trøndelag coast. Captain Moritz Askildt says to AFTENPOSTEN, "I can in a sense understand that an expression like 'play acting' falls easily on one's lips. However, we are turning out not just to be present. The effort is 100 percent."

Critical voices are being raised after Norwegian submarine actions, just as continuously as the naval armed forces leadership has had to say after each action, "Unfortunately, no concrete results."

"The longer this is allowed to continue, the more confidence in Norwegian and Swedish defense capability is lessened," a reader wrote to AFTENPOSTEN after the last Norwegian submarine action in Tys Fjord in February. During this action an armed effort was made on several occasions.

The action was begun after a relatively solid visual observation from land. Later, after analysis of the results that were obtained--or, more correctly, not obtained--from the action, the armed forces are in a sense leaving the door open for the possibility that it really was a submarine. "We classify the event as a 'slightly possible submarine,'" AFTENPOSTEN is now informed by the North Norway Armed Forces Command.

Now the armed forces are searching for a possible submarine again. A lighthouse keeper on Sunday afternoon observed a crow's-nest-like object way out in Sve Fjord. A new observation was made by a woman 25 nautical miles farther south. The distance between the two observations is not farther than that a vessel with a speed of 2 knots can cover it during the time interval in question.

Why doesn't the South Norway Armed Forces Command bring frigates and Orion planes with locating equipment into action? Both Captain Thor Endresen of

the Marops (Maritime Operations Center) Command in Stavanger and Captain Moritz Askildt at the South Norway Armed Forces Command in Oslo answer, "We evaluate the situation each time, and assess as of the moment which resources are to be brought into action."

"The two coast guard vessels have sonar. These have shown themselves to be relatively good during exercises," Captain Askildt says.

According to what AFTENPOSTEN has learned, this sonar equipment is not of the "military type."

"I can well understand that critical voices have gradually risen as the result of submarine actions in Norwegian waters. People want a tangible result," Askildt says.

[Question] Do you now have the feeling of having lost the respect of the man in the street?

[Answer] "No, and I really hope that people are not left with this impression. We are to a very great extent dependent on observations made by the civilian population. When we send out vessels it is to make a 100-percent effort."

Captain Thor Endresen, who is leading the operation along the coast of Trøndelag from Marops, will not comment to AFTENPOSTEN as to what possibilities the two coast guard vessels really have of finding a possible submarine. "It is a big area, and the melting of snow is not making the conditions for sonar easier than desired," he tells AFTENPOSTEN.

"Never Again Report a Submarine, Even if the Fjord Is Full of Them"

"I will never again make a report if I see a possible foreign submarine. If I get to see 10 submarines lying and sunning themselves out in Sve Fjord at the same time, after this I intend to keep my mouth shut about it." Lighthouse Keeper Rolf Saether at Buholmråsa Lighthouse in North Trøndelag said this to ADRESSEAVISEN. When he and two other adults observed a "motionless crow's nest" out in Sve Fjord they wanted to investigate it further. The lighthouse keeper rowed out toward the object while the other two followed it with binoculars. Then the object suddenly disappeared. And it was immediately reported to the nearest sheriff as a possible submarine.

Saether reported on what he and the other two had seen on Sunday afternoon. A whole day went by before he was interrogated about the episode. Bjørnør Sheriff Odd Helmersen, who received the report, is also outraged.

"We reported the observation to South Trøndelag Police Headquarters a quarter of an hour after it was telephoned in to the sheriff's office--precisely as the instructions say," the sheriff reports. "The police headquarters alerted the armed forces, who telephoned us and asked us to interrogate Lighthouse Keeper Saether the next day. We acted precisely according to instructions. If a peep had been made regarding an interrogation the same day, we would of course had been there at once," Sheriff Helmersen says.

"Now we have been paraded as tardy idiots. And this is unfair as can be," the sheriff thinks. And in any case, Lighthouse Keeper Rolf Saether will never again report possible submarines, according to ADRESSEAVISEN. He has given up over public tardiness.

8985

CS0: 3639/106

SERRA GAINS ARMY'S CONFIDENCE, ACHIEVES REFORMS

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 Apr 84 pp 134-135

[Article: "Better Thoughts"]

[Text] The socialist government understands how to live with Franco's Army, how to keep it in check and to finally reform it.

The fall of the young democracy appeared to be carefully planned. Coup Colonel Jesus Crespo Cuspinera had recorded in 600 pages on how the Spanish capital was to be occupied by the military: tanks in the city center, paratroopers in front of Moncloa Palace, the seat of government, heavy artillery fire on Zarzuela, the king's palace.

In Madrid alone over 100 officers were supposed to have participated in the coup and headed small mobile commands. Civil Guards of the rightwing Falange were then supposed to have taken care of the dirty work among the leftwing civilians.

Nevertheless, "Operacion Marte" and "Operacion Halcon," as Spain's military extremists had christened their coup plans for fall 1982, were failures. The chief planners were arrested. Then, just hardly a month later, what the colonels had wanted to prevent by force came to pass: the PSOE [Socialist Labor Party of Spain] won with an overwhelming majority in the parliamentary elections. Their leader, Felipe Gonzalez, became Spain's first socialist prime minister after almost 40 years of Franco's dictatorship.

But the Spaniards were still afraid of a new military coup because only four of the allegedly over 100 officers involved in the coup attempt could be arrested at the time.

The Madrid daily paper DIARIO 16 reported, "In the barracks they are already plotting the next attack": After three coup attempts on the previous governments of the democratic Right, the big attack against the socialist government is now being planned.

After 16 months of socialist government, none of it has come to pass as yet, and nothing points to new interference in politics by the Spanish military. For precisely the socialists, and not the previous rightwing governments, have succeeded in a short time in taming Spain's anti-democratic armed forces to a large extent.

Without the usual unrest in the army, without the well-known threatening gestures in the general staffs, the court-martial trial against the four coup colonels begins this Tuesday; file number 200/1982, required sentence; 15 and 12 years imprisonment respectively.

In contrast to what happened during the trial of the unsuccessful insurgents who, 1 1/2 years before, on 23 February 1981, had already captured the entire government and the parliament and let the tanks roll in Valencia, the defendants in this court-martial trial in the Madrid military headquarters cannot count on any proofs of friendship from like-minded officer colleagues.

The reason is that the ruling socialists have approached the military with much patience and a fine feeling for military idiosyncracies.

After three unsuccessful coups, another election defeat of the Franquistas-- Coup Colonel Tejero had received only 33,000 votes in all of Spain--and the overwhelming victory of the socialists, they had probably come to the painful insight that the wheel of history cannot be turned back anymore.

A civilian defense minister, precisely a man who was the target of just about all the prejudices of the Franquistas, won considerable trust and respect within the armed forces: The comrade has a full beard, wears long hair, has never served in the armed forces and is also a Catalan with the un-Spanish sounding name Narcis Serra. When he assumed office and took the salute of the troops assembled before him for the first time, many officers maligned his "unmilitary bearing with its slightly shuffling step."

But later the first surprise came during a round of drinks in the mess: When the officers struck up their old battle songs, the socialist minister sang along in full voice. In advance he had studied the hymns at home on the piano and knew the lyrics better than the old warriors.

With diligence, cool intelligence and clever tactics, the minister, previously the popular major of Barcelona, soon earned respect in the barracks--even among the conservatives.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez even went still further and, for his office, picked as technical advisor three officers who are called "somewhat more than conservative" by their own comrades. Disappointed, some of the democratically-minded military men who now had hoped for a good career under the socialists left the army.

Undaunted and on the sly, Minister Serra in the meantime worked out a reform program which the previous rightwing governments had not dared out of fear of the military's reaction: Franco's troops, who always saw their enemy only in their own people and who the dictator, with good reason, had trained and armed poorly, are supposed to be fundamentally modernized and transformed into a numerically small but more combat-fit army of NATO quality.

All at once the entire top-ranking military leadership was replaced; moreover, by legal decree the armed forces, until then commanded by the king alone, were assigned to civil control--a matter of course in most European countries, but for Spain a minor revolution.

Describing "Caudillo [Chief] Gonzalez," EL ALCAZAR, the mouthpiece of the extremists, bitterly noted the news that now for the first time the prime minister had the power to command the armed forces--in said remembrance of their "Caudillo by the grace of God," Francisco Franco.

In the second phase, just under half of all the general, 64 years old on the average, and a third of all the likewise overaged colonels are supposed to be dismissed or sent into early retirement. A total of 6,112 officers are to be affected by the plan in the next 6 years.

To be sure, Minister Serra has promised that the weeding out will be done according to purely professional and not ideological motives. Nonetheless, many extremists fear that their last hour will have then come.

The goal is to reduce the body of officers and generals, inflated to over 40,000 men, to a manageable amount: Spain has almost 5,500 generals.

Under Dictator Franco officers were not promoted to the rank of general on the basis of intelligence or performance, but automatically if they had merely served long enough. None of the 19 colonel generals and 41 division generals, for example, has a language diploma. Also only a few of the colonels speak English, French or even German, three, however, speak Russian.

For the first time, those who until now would automatically be promoted to colonel, in addition to having to have professional knowledge, also have to be qualified for physical condition--a difficult obstacle for many of the pot-bellied officers.

The nation must be spending quite a bit on the reforms. This year the defense budget has reached the record sum of 550 billion pesetas (approximately 9.6 billion marks). For the first time, and under a socialist government, Spain is now spending more for cannons than for schoolbooks.

A member of the government remarked: "Woe to us if that doesn't help to bring the colonels round to better thoughts."

12331

CSO: 3620/232

EC SITUATION INCREASES NEED FOR DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE RESTRUCTURE

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 9 Apr 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Agricultural Policy"]

[Text] The agricultural debate in the Folketing last week was marked by a certain concern over the agricultural situation. Certainly Danish agriculture has a more modern production apparatus today than in many years. But the operating economic conditions in agriculture are not satisfactory. While we traditionally here at home have seen Danish agriculture as among the most advanced internationally, Denmark no longer has a higher level of output in many parts of agricultural production than other EC countries. It is also a fact that one-third of all farmers today are over 60 years old, that only about 1,500 new farmers each year while 3,000 farms are closed up each year.

There is a clear need for a structural adjustment in Danish agriculture and for an improvement of earnings. Instead of new special forms of financing and subsidy, there must especially be concentration on formation of a general economic policy which can hold agricultural costs, including interest, down. It is also important to consider a liberalization of the many existing restrictions on the acquisition and combining of farms. It is, furthermore, difficult to see justification for retaining a prohibition against using joint capital, as it is known in city businesses, on a farm which has a need for strengthening of net capital.

The agricultural debate was largely settled when the minister of agriculture and the government accepted the recently entered EC agreement on the combined European agricultural policy. The criticism was largely wide of the mark. The combined agricultural policy has, since it was adopted in 1962, rested on entirely unrealistic conditions about unlimited outlets for agricultural products. The result was an agricultural policy which has stimulated increased production to create giant surplus stocks. Mainly in the milk area, and this has drained the EC treasury. Thirty percent of EC agricultural funds in 1983 went for milk production. The situation has been totally untenable for a long time, seen both from the standpoint of general

resources, and in relation to the staggering EC economy and the lack of will of the member countries to pay new large contributions.

Against this background it must be seen as a realistic step that the EC is now seeking a ceiling over milk production. In the longer term it will be more appropriate first to seek to adjust production in different areas through the price mechanism, eventually combined with a temporary pension arrangement for farmers. In the short term, where the problems are also pressing, the quota arrangement is seen as the fastest-acting instrument for limiting overproduction.

In any case the agricultural minister is correct in saying that Danish agriculture can not declare itself out of this sales situation and continue to produce in quantities that are not in demand.

9287

CSO: 3613/134

BRIEFS

FINNISH SHIP ORDERS FROM USSR--Finland has secured fresh ship orders from the Soviet Union. The Hollming shipyard in Rauma is to deliver to the Soviet Union two vessels designed for the study of the sea bottom. The deliveries are to take place in 1986-87. The agreement on the deliveries worth about FM300 million has been signed in Moscow. The vessels represent a completely new type. They make possible studies of the sea bottom at the maximum depth of 300 meters. Owing to the new type of vessel, the construction can only begin toward the end of the current year. The deal means in terms of employment about 600 man working years. [Summary] [Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0930 GMT 14 Apr 84 LD]

SOVIET EXHIBIT IN HELSINKI--An extensive exhibition of Soviet export products has opened at the Helsinki Exhibition Center. About 30 Soviet foreign trade organizations are taking part in the exhibition; they are exhibiting consumer goods, machinery and appliances. The exhibition also displays products manufactured jointly with Finnish enterprises. The purpose of the Soviet exhibition week, organized by the Soviet Chamber of Trade and Industry, is to promote exports to Finland and at the same time show to the public the choice of goods manufactured in the Soviet Union. [Text] [Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0830 GMT 12 Apr 84 LD]

CSO: 3617/150

PARIBAS BANK SHOWS IMPORTANT GAINS IN 1983

Paris LES ECHOS in French 16 Mar 84 p 6

[Article: "Paribas Bank: Substantial Hike in 1983 Results"]

[Text] The accounts of the Paribas Bank for the 1983 accounting period, published yesterday, indicated significant progress for last year's results. First of all, it should be recalled that in June 1983 the authorized capital went from 900 million francs to 1 billion francs as a result of an increase in capital compared to cash, which raised the bank's own funds to 229.2 million francs.

The net bank product reached 4.13 billion francs (approximately plus 36 percent) and the gross operating results before taxes, depreciation and holdings, went to 2.30 billion francs in 1983, an increase of more than 38 percent.

Due to the economic situation in the world, the risks of failing enterprises and the financial difficulties of the most indebted countries, the Paribas Bank has established substantial assets in France as well as abroad: the surplus of assets obtained from the recovered holdings, which are up by approximately 42 percent, amounts to 1.69 billion francs in 1983 as against 1.19 billion in 1982.

In spite of this, the net profits are substantially higher than they were during the previous accounting period: they are set at 175.6 million francs (plus 39.7 percent). The Paribas Bank has indicated that these results consist of 109.1 million francs in profits recorded in subsidiaries abroad and 66.5 million francs in profits from operations carried out in France against which, it is true, certain general costs are charged.

The increase in the results, which is particularly remarkable for an accounting period in which the French banking system has had to face a general increase of risks, demonstrates in any case the development of the activity of the Paribas Bank. Thus, credits to its clients have risen 29.5 percent in France, thanks specifically to the development of foreign currency loans.

Credits granted by the subsidiaries abroad have in turn risen 15 percent. Overall, last year the Paribas Bank granted a total of 103.9 billion francs (plus 23 percent approximately) in credits. Deposits by clients have increased 10.2 percent in France and more than 47 percent abroad.

Finally, it should be added that the board of directors has proposed endowments to the legal reserves, to the special reserve of long term appreciation and to the other reserves, which will once again strengthen the bank's own capital and will allow the bank to pursue better credit expansion in 1984.

8463

CSO: 3519/275

INDUSTRY MINISTER FABIOUS ON INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRATIZATION

Paris LES ECHOS in French 19 Mar 84 p 7

[Report on speech by Laurent Fabius, minister of industry and research, to a colloquium organized by the Socialist Party in Paris: "The Nationalized Industries Must Do More in the Social Area"]

[Text] "Industrially, well on the road; socially, should do better": with this formula Mr Laurent Fabius, minister of industry and research, summarized the comments he made on "2 years of nationalizations."

Speaking at a colloquium organized by the Socialist Party in Paris on the theme "Public Enterprises: Democratize to Succeed," Mr Fabius noted that the law on the democratization of the public sector, which concerns about 200,000 [part of number missing] wage earners, is "a condition of the success of the nationalizations" and that, during the next few months, it will "strengthen the innovation of the national enterprises."

In this regard, he cited the example of last Thursday's elections at the state owned Renault company, where, in his opinion, the strong participation proves the desire of the wage earners to "accede to responsibilities and to participate in the strategy of the enterprise."

On the other hand, Mr Fabius also strongly criticized the attitude of the opposition, which "radically" condemns the nationalizations and "proposes denationalization as the sole remedy." An orientation which he has characterized as "dangerous" at both the social and economic levels.

Drawing up the economic and industrial balance sheet of the nationalizations, the minister considered that, if they had not taken place, "the majority of the enterprises involved would have had to choose between being sold or disappearing." For him, the balance sheet of those 2 years is "positive," even if "obvious difficulties still remain to be overcome in the context of the international crisis," and today the nationalized enterprises are "sought after partners and respected competitors."

He made a more qualified statement on the social aspects, asserting that there is a contrast between "the considerable hopes which have been fed by the nationalizations and their real and rapid transformation capacity."

Nevertheless, he said, "it would be unfair to believe that nothing has changed because not everything has changed."

Mr Fabius noted that "the gains of the last 2 years are not insignificant," quoting to support this the example of Renault where "15,000 personnel members have already participated in expression groups," and that of Thomson where "the information given to the moderators and to the cadres has involved 3,700 trainees."

8463

CSO: 3519/277

FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT INCREASES IN FEBRUARY

Paris LES ECHOS in French 19 Mar 84 p 8

[Article: "Foreign Trade -- The Trend Is Worsening"]

[Text] French foreign trade has once again registered a substantial deficit in February, having been set at 4.6 billion francs (in seasonally adjusted data). Since the beginning of the year, the negative balance of our trade balance amounted to 10.2 billion francs in seasonally adjusted data and to 13.6 billion francs in gross figures.

This result can be considered poor, as were those for inflation and unemployment. Following the reduction by half of the foreign trade deficit in 1983 compared to 1982, the Ministries of Economy and Trade figured generally speaking that the year 1984 would, at worst, experience a deficit of no more than 15 billion francs and, at best, show a slight surplus. In 2 months, reality has proven that the most pessimistic objective will probably be exceeded.

Indeed, several trends lead one to believe that the February results are probably not accidental:

- The level of trade, imports and exports, has dropped substantially. Even though the paralysis of road transportation -- for nearly 1 week in February -- did not help anything, one notes more generally speaking, a settling of economic activity.
- In February, trade in agricultural food products, the traditional jewel of the French balance, recorded an exceptionally unfavorable result, with a small surplus of 0.5 billion francs. The balance of trade in energy products has, in turn, maintained an "abnormal deficit": it was set at minus 17.1 billion francs (as against an average of minus 14 billion during the second half of 1983). A strong increase in gas imports (plus 24.6 percent) and in refined petroleum products (plus 10.5 percent) explains this erosion.
- The results achieved by geographical zones show that France's foreign trade is experiencing a strong erosion in countries with centralized economies. On the other hand, the deficit balances with regard to the EEC countries have become nearly stabilized, while the balance of trade with the developing countries is improving substantially.

- The only really encouraging element, the balance of trade for manufactured products, has set a new record by producing a profit of 9.1 billion francs (in seasonally adjusted data) as against 7.9 billion francs in January and a monthly average of 5 billion in 1983.

For the coming months, two important factors will determine the evolution of foreign trade. On the one hand, the decline of the dollar, if it materializes, will contribute to the price reduction of our petroleum products and our imported raw materials, while nevertheless reducing the advantage of our exports on the American market.

On the other hand, the international economic recovery and the economic growth gap should continue to benefit France.

This is at least what is hoped by the Ministry of Foreign Trade for which "the continued strengthening of the industrial balance demonstrates the capacity of our enterprises to take advantage of the recovery which is taking place within the OECD area."

8463

CSO: 3519/277

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY 1984 RISE

Paris LES ECHOS in French 19 Mar 84 p 8

[Article by A.P.: "Unemployment: Stunning Rise"]

[Text] In 1983 the number of unemployed rose by 90,000 individuals. During the first 2 months of 1984 the increase reached 74,700. A comparison between the two figures is revealing in and of itself. Last year the average rate of increase of unemployment was 7,600 newly unemployed per month. At the moment it has reached 37,400 per month. The acceleration is stunning.

It does not appear to be accidental. Because on the side of offers filed with the ANPE [National Employment Agency] every month, the historically low record has been beaten. Result: the share of employment seekers below the age of 25 is going down (40.1 percent in February), that of the women among the adult (25 to 45 years old) job seekers is also declining (44.6 percent), whereas unemployment among men, still within the same age bracket, is getting worse.

The reasons for registering for unemployment also indicate the precariousness of the job market: 29.8 percent among the new job seekers were at the end of a fixed term contract and 28.4 percent had been the object of economic or personal dismissal.

Moreover, they also reflect the deterioration of the situation at the level of the households: young people who are registering for the first time for unemployment and individuals who want to take up activity again are substantially more numerous than they used to be. As a matter of fact, this movement is a relatively recent one.

Other worrisome signs: more than half the people registered with the ANPE (52.5 percent) are skilled workers and employees and the rise in the number of foreign unemployed (including nationals from the EEC, or 12.6 percent of all the job seekers) turns out to be more rapid (plus 11.4 percent in 1 year).

Under those conditions, how high will the number of unemployed climb between now and the end of the year? In its latest forecasts, the INSEE [National Statistical and Economic Studies Institute] figured an average increase on the order of 13,000 new registrations per month. The experts at UNIDIC [expansion unknown], probably out of a concern with the financial balance of the new system of unemployment insurance, figured up to 20,000 per month.

According to the first, by December 1984 France should have about 2,270,000 unemployed; according to the others, the figure of 2,350,000 could be exceeded.

The "social treatment" of unemployment has had its life. True, for 2 years in a row, in 1982 and in 1983, it has allowed the government to put the break on the rise in unemployment, but in 1984 such therapy cannot be applied. And nothing seems to have been proposed to take its place.

Employment By the End of 1984 (Data in Millions)

- Job seekers: 2,258.1 or an increase of 0.3 percent in 1 month and of 8.6 percent in 1 year; and 2,193.3 after adjustment for seasonal variations, or a 2.7 percent rise compared to the previous month and an 8.6 percent rise compared to the same month of the previous year.
- Job offers: 48.5 in observed data, or respectively a decrease of 1 percent in 1 month and of 54.5 percent in 1 year; of 54.1 percent after adjustment for seasonal factors, or a drop of 8.5 percent compared to the previous month and of 51.7 percent compared to the same month of the previous year.
- Average length of unemployment: 297 days, or 6 days more than in January 1984 and 8 days more than in February 1983.

8463

CSO: 3519/277

REMAINING TELEFUNKEN ASSETS CEDED

Paris LES ECHOS in French 13 Mar 84 p 6

[Article: "AEG Takes Over 3.17 Percent of Thomson General Public Estimated at 2.4 Billion Francs"]

[Text] The German group AEG-Telefunken has sold the 25 percent of the capital of the Telefunken company which it still owned to the French Thomson company, which henceforth owns all of it, for an equal value interest -- or 76.225 million francs -- in the Thomson General Public company, the two groups confirmed in a communique issued on Monday. This will establish Thomson General Public with about 2.4 billion francs (LES ECHOS of 7 March).

This interest represents 3.17 percent of the capital of Thomson General Public.

Through this agreement, AEG-Telefunken and Thomson hope to strengthen their cooperation.

At first, on 1 April 1983, the West German group had sold 75 percent of the capital of Telefunken to Thomson-Brandt, a subsidiary specializing in "brown products," that is to say television sets, hi-fi systems, video recorders. On the other hand, it had kept the armaments activities and components of the former Telefunken company.

8463

CSO: 3519/275

NO PROFITS FOR CII BULL ELECTRONICS BEFORE 1986

Paris LES ECHOS in French 20 Mar 84 p 9

[Article by J.J.: "The Forgetfulness of Laurent Fabius -- No Profits for Bull Before 1986"]

[Text] When Laurent Fabius thinks about the nationalized sectors, he has curious lapses of memory. Because, as far as he is concerned, there is no ambiguity, "the enterprises of the competitive industrial public sector will all have to be financially balanced in 1985, except for the steel industry and CDP [French Coal Board]-Chemicals." These ministerial remarks have been made repeatedly both at the National Assembly and to the press. Well, one "ward" of the state will be missing. And it does not hesitate to remind people so that nobody will be able to act surprised in 1985, especially not Laurent Fabius. "Bull will not become profitable again before 1986," its chairman and managing director, Jacques Stern, reaffirmed yesterday before the Association of Economics and Financial Reporters [AJEF], so that nobody will misunderstand the depth of the recovery that has been achieved.

It is strange to see data processing rubbing shoulders with the state owned steel industry or chemical industry in thinking about the time necessary to clean up the situation, but the facts are there. In spite of a 1.5 billion franc subsidy, Bull's 1983 accounts show a deficit. Its consolidated losses amount to 625 million francs, with Transaco and Sems having been bought back respectively from CGE [General Electric Company] and Thomson.

They amount to 596 million francs if one takes into consideration only CII-HB [Honeywell Bull]. True, like Pechiney things are going much better given that the deficit is half the size of the one in 1982. But, unlike Pechiney or Rhone-Poulenc, or even Thomson, nobody at Bull is talking about getting out of the red in 1984, in spite of a 1 billion franc capital subsidy. The company, which feels like a PME [Small and Medium Sized Enterprise] in the world of data processing (well now -- this language does not fail to remind one of that of the CGE in terms of electronics), prefers to bet on the long term by investing prolifically for the future: production machinery, research, development.

Data Processing More Important than Automobile Industry

Those are the three key areas to which Bull allocates 20 percent of its turnover, which reached 11.64 billion francs last year, a gain of 21.3 percent.

The key idea is to prepare a new generation of systems by 1986, totally ecumenical in character, that is to say able to interface with all products of the competition, capable of being suitable for a multitude of professional or general public uses. Universal electronics, whether it is called office automation, computerized communications or data processing, Bull's ambitions are one with those of IBM and the other American industrialists.

Everything will depend on the ability of the electronics "architects" to be the best, or the wildest, of the "engineering" groups in electronics, combining internal knowledge with the capability of the products acquired outside to build "general purpose" systems for the users.

An enormous challenge for Bull which is only in 12th place worldwide. But a major challenge at the time when data processing is in the process of becoming a more important industry than the automobile industry: this should be true by the end of the decade with a volume exceeding \$150 billion. So major that once again the officials at Bull are convinced that there is no future outside Europe for non-American and non-Japanese data processing.

And the primary task for the firms of the old continent is to reconquer the domestic market, as the EEC, which represents 30 percent of world purchases (50 percent in the United States), produces only 8 percent of the world data processing materials.

A serious "gap."

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SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN 1983 EXPORTS TO IRAN REPORTED

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 31 Mar 84 p 9

[Article by Kerstin Kall: "Exports to Iran Increased in 1983"]

[Text] Sweden's exports to Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran increased by 150 percent last year. That is the biggest increase by any of Sweden's export markets throughout the world.

The value of Swedish exports to Iran last year was 3.2 billion kronor, as compared with 1.2 billion in 1982.

That makes Iran Sweden's thirteenth largest export market overall. Factory-produced commodities--primarily trucks and machinery manufactured on contract--accounted for two thirds of Sweden's exports to Iran.

The other belligerent party in the Middle East, Iraq, reduced its imports from Sweden from almost 3 billion kronor worth in 1982 to 1 billion kronor worth last year. This is shown by the Central Statistical Bureau's annual summary of foreign trade broken down by individual countries.

The increase in exports to more traditional trading partners was also large.

Deficit

The value of exports to West Germany increased by a good 36 percent, while imports from that country increased by only 14 percent. The result was that the deficit in trade with West Germany decreased from 12.5 to 10.3 billion kronor.

However, that deficit continues to be the largest one Sweden has with any individual country.

Among the items that increased most pronouncedly was factory-produced commodities, which moved up by a good 38 percent. The exportation of computers increased by 129 percent to 1.2 billion kronor worth, and the exportation of passenger automobiles increased by 24 percent to 9,200 vehicles. Exports to Sweden's next-largest trading partner, the United Kingdom, increased by 35 percent in value, which was almost as much as in the case of West Germany.

However, as a result of the large amount of oil that was imported, the balance of trade with Great Britain worsened to a deficit of 5 billion kronor.

Where trade with the rest of the EC is concerned, the Central Statistical Bureau's figures show a surplus of 13 billion kronor.

Surplus

The surplus in trade with EFTA countries was unchanged at 6 billion kronor worth. Almost all of that surplus comes from trade with Norway, which now occupies third place among Sweden's markets where size is concerned. As a result of Sweden's increased importation of oil from Finland, its trade surplus with that country was cut in half--to 0.5 billion kronor worth. The value of exports to North America has doubled in two years.

In 1981, Sweden had a deficit of 2.3 billion kronor in its trade with the United States. Last year that had changed to a surplus of 3 billion kronor worth. During the same period of time, the value of the passenger automobiles exported increased from 3.2 billion to 8.3 billion kronor.

On the other hand, Sweden's exports to eastern Europe decreased for the eighth year in succession. Exports to Poland, which dropped sharply between 1976 and 1981, are on the way back up again, but exports to the Soviet Union, in contrast, are unchanged--at a value of approximately 2 billion kronor in both 1982 and 1983.

We have gotten a very much better balance with the OPEC countries in the Middle East. In 1981, the deficit was 2.6 billion kronor, but in 1983 the reduced oil imports resulted in a surplus of 9.1 billion kronor.

9266

CSO: 3650/166

PALME VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHT TO STEM INFLATION

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 1 Apr 84 p 6

[Article by Kaa Eneberg: "Olof Palme Says, 'We Will Not Give Up Our Inflation Target'"]

[Text] Ronneby Brunn, 31 March 1984--"The price increases that are to be expected after the wage negotiations are concluded must be reduced. The increased wage costs cannot be switched over to the consumers. The government assumes that business feels it has been able to afford that."

That is what Prime Minister Olof Palme said when he spoke to 400 Social Democratic representatives from Blekinge on Ronneby Brunn on Saturday. However, Olof Palme did not go into the questions of what action the government intends to take against price increases and how soon it intends to take that action. He stated that the overall effect of the agreement is not yet clear.

However, Palme denied most emphatically that the government would play around with an effort to change the target inflation rate from 4 to 5 percent. In his speech, he said that that speculation had been found in SVENSKA DAGBLADET, among other places, after the government's deliberations in Bommersvik in Sormland on Thursday and Friday.

Palme, who was in a radiant mood and who entertained the public with jokes as well as serious talk, said that "that would be giving up."

"And we are not going to do that. We have said that if we are to do our job in Sweden we have to reduce inflation in accordance with the target that was set up. That has been impossible with the wage agreements that have been concluded up to the present. Prices have been going up and up," he said.

"But that cannot be accepted. Therefore, economic policy has to be made more stringent. The inflation target will be retained. If we are going to continue to guide Sweden out of the present serious international crisis, we certainly cannot give up when we are halfway there," Palme said.

Will Take Time

Palme pointed out that it will take time to straighten out an economy with a budget deficit and unemployment. But it is important to follow the new road on which we have started out bearing in mind that Sweden is competing with countries that are now down to inflation rates of 3 or 4 percent.

He stated that the increase in exports in 1983 was 11.5 percent, as compared with the expected 6 percent, as a result of Social Democratic policies. The increase in the gross national product was 2.3 percent instead of 1.4 percent, industrial production increased by 6 percent and there was a reduced foreign trade deficit of 8 billion instead of 20 billion kronor.

"Now we have a unique chance to achieve full employment and can maintain prosperity without the brutal methods that are used in other countries," Palme said. He believed that he had the Swedish people with him and was greeted with massive applause.

Without the policy on which the government has embarked, there is a good chance that "Sweden will become a dreary country that is slipping down into an unemployment rate of 10 percent, where the outlook for the future is poor and where there is little confidence in what the future will bring," he said.

Not the Government's Fault

On the above-mentioned high wage agreement, Palme stated that private industry would have to accept full responsibility. He rejected the assertion that the official agreement was at too high a level. "It is wrong to blame the government," he said.

"We can only assume that industry is counting on an improvement of production and will be able to afford this, for it won't do to switch the costs over to the consumers. In this mixed economy, private industry must take full responsibility," Palme said.

He devoted a good part of his speech to the demand for the privatization of sectors such as medical services and child care. He referred to the old Social Minister, Gustav Moller, and his urging that everyone should be given the same chance at care and benefits.

"There is a dangerous tendency at present for the weakest to be given special treatment," he said. "That brings about a splitting of the nation into the poor and the rich that is found in the United States, among other places."

AB Pysslingen, which does child care under contract and cannot get government support, was alluded to in its turn.

"They are looking for capable, hard-working girls for an enterprise that will provide child care with fewer people and for less money in order to provide the smart boys behind the idea with money," he said ironically.

Delegation

A delegation of archipelago inhabitants also pursued Palme in connection with all the unpleasantness they had suffered because of the submarine hunt in the archipelago off Karlskrona. Hundreds of thousands of identity checks of people in that district were carried out during the hunt, which lasted 50 days.

Palme's answer was that as soon as the commander in chief's report on the situation is finished in April the restrictions can perhaps be lightened.

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EMPLOYMENT WITHIN INDUSTRY REGISTERS UPTURN

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 5 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] As a result of the improved economic situation, employment within industry is now improving for the first time in four years.

The Economic Situation Institute's first "barometer" for 1984 shows very favorable figures for the export industry, in particular, which is doing much better than was expected. The domestic market has also been doing better, but that holds true primarily for subcontractors for the export industry.

In industrial branches that are more directly dependent upon the Swedish market, things are going worse. But even in many of those branches, better results are expected during the rest of the year.

The plans of business enterprises suggest, in general, that employment will be unchanged during the summer half-year, but that production will continue to increase. More and more enterprises are reporting a shortage of skilled workers and technicians.

In the most recent "barometer," the majority of the business enterprises believed that the number of employees would continue to decrease but that development has moved in a different direction.

Demand from the domestic market (Sweden) has increased somewhat and is concerned, above all, with the engineering industry, the graphics industry, the pulp industry, the paper industry and the food industry.

The number of orders coming into the carpentry and joinery industry, the timber industry, iron and steel plants and the cement industry has decreased.

Exporting has done better than was calculated in December. The situation is the same for the engineering industry and the pulp and paper mills, most especially, along with the iron and steel plants.

However, things are going worse where the exportation of textiles and clothing is concerned.

Most branches of industry are expecting an improvement during the second quarter of 1984.

Industrial production also was larger than had been anticipated and the lines on the graphs are pointing upward for practically all branches of the economy on the eve of the second quarter, too. The engineering industry, in particular, is expecting a decided increase in production, while the food and cement industries are expecting to produce less than formerly.

The Economic Situation Institute's employment and production graph continues to point upward from its former record-low trough. All prognoses indicate that the rise will continue during the second quarter of 1984, too.

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CSO: 3650/166

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE DROPS FOR SECOND MONTH IN ROW

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 6 Apr 84 p 10

[Text] In March 1984, general unemployment was below last year's level for the second month in a row. That was indicated on Thursday, 5 April 1984, by new statistics from the Central Statistical Bureau and the National Labor Market Board.

But the principal reasons for that drop were the new forms of support for individuals that were established, the law concerning young people and the subsidizing of recruitment. At present, more people continue to be classified as belonging partially or entirely outside of the regular labor market than was the case at the same time in 1983.

Here are the new figures:

In March 1984, the general unemployment figure was 134,000 (3.1 percent), which is 15,000 fewer than in 1983. Of the unemployed, 36,000 were young people (15,000 fewer than in 1983).

At the same time, there were almost 30,000 young people under the so-called law concerning young people (four-hour jobs, primarily in the government and the municipality governments) at the end of March 1984.

If one calculates the total number of people in programs of various kinds--emergency jobs, the law concerning young people, labor market instruction, the subsidization of recruitment or employment with pay subsidies--it amounts to more than 200,000.

In addition to those, there are 60,000 people who would have looked for jobs if they had had a chance to get anything and 175,000 who were partially unemployed because they could only find part-time jobs.

In all, then, there are more than 570,000 unemployed people, and that is approximately 10 percent more than there were at the same time in 1983.

Thus, generally speaking, no clear-cut reversal seems to have taken place in the labor market. The problem persists stubbornly in spite of the better economic situation, and overall employment has not increased since the same time last year.

But the former bright spots still remain and are intensified. They are the following:

The untaken jobs are obviously continuing to increase in number by comparison with the same time last year, for example. During March, 72,000 open positions in agencies were reported, and that is 21,000 more than in March 1983. Up to the present, 26,000 industrial jobs have been reported as unfilled, and that is twice the number that existed in 1983. There also are fewer strike notices than there were last year.

9266

CSO: 3650/166

DUTCH SHELL OFFICIALS DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR NORWEGIAN OIL EXPORTS

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 9 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Terje Svabo]

[Text] The market, not the politicians, must determine the price of gas. The import of Soviet gas by Western Europe must be met by real price competition, not by putting a "political price" on Western gas. These ideas were clearly stated to Norwegian journalists in the Netherlands by representatives of Shell and the Dutch gas company Gasunie. Representatives of the companies said there was no logical reason for linking expansion of the Troll field to a Norwegian-English Sleipner agreement.

Europe's future oil and gas supply was the theme of the Norwegian journalists' study tour. The central topics of the discussions were the Sleipner and Troll fields and whether or not Western Europe should pay more for its own gas in order to avoid imports from the Soviet Union.

High-ranking representatives of Shell totally denied that the company had made any attempt to interfere with the agreement Statoil has reached with the British gas company for the sale of Sleipner gas. But the agreement has met with opposition in the British government. As a result, undersecretary Eivinn Berg of the Foreign Ministry has been in London to influence the British authorities.

In the Netherlands, Shell and Gasunie representatives said they believed the Sleipner agreement would be settled, but Gasunie officials stressed that such an agreement would not prevent the sale of Dutch gas to England. Gasunie has offered to sell England a quantity of gas corresponding to about one third of Sleipner. There are plans to construct a pipeline between the Netherlands and England. It has been said that such a project could be carried out in 18 months.

A top Shell official said it was illogical for Norwegian authorities to indicate that Norway could shift its emphasis from gas to oil if the Sleipner agreement could not be reached. It was said that this position was irrational and could not be used as an argument in price negotiations.

Representatives of both Shell and Gasunie rejected the idea that Western Europe should pay more for its own gas in order to avoid importing Soviet gas. They said it was pointless for President Ronald Reagan to stress so strongly that Europe must not become dependent on Soviet gas. They pointed out that the Soviet Union was a reliable supplier and that Soviet gas would not control the market.

It was stated repeatedly that it would be wise to receive gas from several sources in order to secure a stable supply and to guarantee competition.

In this connection, it was stressed that the market, and not the politicians, should determine the price of gas. The representatives of the companies said that if the price of gas from Western Europe were too high, the consumers would not accept it. Instead, they would increase their consumption of oil and coal.

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CS0: 3639/102

HUGE LOSSES IN GAS CONSORTIUM LEAD TO MANAGEMENT SHAKEUP

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 11 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Dan Axel: "Breakdown in Natural Gas Department: 7 Billion Lost in 1 Year"]

[Text] A dramatic reconstruction of the natural gas company is necessary. Head of department Holger Lavesen will therefore become permanent chairman, and two well-known businessmen will join the board of directors.

The economy of the Danish natural gas project has depreciated by not less than 7 billion kroner in only one year. And the project is thereby on the way to a speedy collapse if it does not undergo a dramatic reconstruction.

This is indicated by the budget accounts which the state company Dansk Olie og Naturgas--DONG--today released following a directors meeting. The surprisingly bad result was caused by a lack of subscriptions to the gas net, and sales to major customers which were far below expectations.

Against the background of the failing economy of the gas project the government has gone into serious negotiations with the Social Democrats to find a reconstruction model which can save the project.

Department head Holger Lavesen will continue as permanent chairman of DONG, and he will thereby be the man who will govern the reconstruction of the project. "I hope that I can today give the final composition of DONG's board of directors as it will look following a general assembly," said Holger Lavesen to BERLINGSKE.

Holger Lavesen had originally stipulated that after one-half year he could return as a department head in the Ministry of Environment, but he now prefers to remain and struggle with the enormous problems in DONG.

Following the directors meeting in DONG this afternoon it is expected that the names of two new directors will be announced. There has been mention of "two familiar faces from the business world," BERLINGSKE has learned.

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY ISSUES FUELS EMERGENCY PLAN

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 2 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Liv Hegna]

[Text] Plans for emergency restrictions and rationing of fuels have now been issued. They are now available for the first time in a single document, which is being sent to government offices, county and municipal governments, and other affected agencies. The Oil and Energy Ministry ordered the plan and the Directorate for Civil Preparedness was responsible for the project. If emergency measures must be taken, the restrictions will affect private automobiles and pleasure boats first, AFTENPOSTEN learned.

Assistant secretary Erling Moen of the directorate said, "We are no longer thinking about quotas and rationing cards. We are developing a more flexible system based on real life. If some preparedness unit of vital civil or military significance needs fuel to carry out a necessary task, then it will receive fuel. This could be, for example, to repair bridges or power plants that have been destroyed. We have abandoned the application and allotment system. In a war situation we must do what is effective and crack down on misuse afterward." When asked who would have authority over distribution, Moen said that several people in the various departments would be appointed before war broke out. The regulations came into effect on 1 April. Assistant secretary Moen said that even during peacetime restrictions could be introduced during emergencies. "If we estimate that consumption must be reduced by at least 20 percent, then we will introduce rationing. We believe, however, that we will have some time to make this decision. Restrictions will be phased in over a period of months, followed by rationing, if needed," Moen said.

What concrete restrictions have been planned?

"Fuel sales for private automobiles and pleasure boats will be prohibited during certain times. This could be, for example, from 7 in the evening until 5 in the morning or from Friday afternoon until Monday. The use of private automobiles at certain times without a special permit also could be prohibited. Under these conditions, it also would be impossible to purchase unlimited quantities of fuel," the assistant secretary said. The new Regulations on Rationing and Restrictions on the Supply and Consumption of

Petroleum Products contain plans for a joint Skandinavian policy. Assistant secretary Moen said he did not believe that Norway or the two Nordic countries that are NATO members would introduce restrictions and rationing on their own while Sweden, for example, did not. "In any case, we have agreed to inform one another in advance if authorities in one country are considering the use of restrictions in an emergency situation," he told AFTENPOSTEN.

Assistant secretary Erling Moen refused to comment on the size of our oil stockpiles. Parliament has decided that they should cover 90 days of consumption. Civil engineer Olav Karstad has stated previously, however, that oil-producing Norway has emergency fuel stockpiles corresponding to only 90 days of consumption during a war. He has also pointed out that our oil storage facilities are highly centralized and difficult to distribute.

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CSO: 3639/102

POLAR INSTITUTE SETS PLANS FOR 1985 ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 5 Apr 84 p 44

[Article by Torill Nordeng]

[Text] Apart from the fact that the Norwegian Polar Institute does not yet know how 25 researchers will get to the Antarctic on the large Norwegian expedition in January and February of next year, all the details have been worked out. On Wednesday the various projects were presented at the institute. The minutest details have been worked out for two research projects to be conducted in Queen Maud Land and one in the Weddell Sea. Bouvet Island also will be visited. One of the coast guard's new ships probably will be used for the trip.

At the presentation on Wednesday, director Odd Rogne of the Norwegian Polar Institute stressed Norway's long tradition in the Antarctic. "It is important both from a national and international standpoint that we continue our research in this area. This is the only legitimate reason to be there," he said. Rogne also is interested in results from Norwegian researchers in the southern polar region as a basis for future Antarctic policies.

Glaciologist Olav Orheim of the Norwegian Polar Institute will lead the expedition. He has already visited the Antarctic 11 times. As in the past, he will concentrate on iceberg research. Utilizing an international reporting system, Orheim has already registered over 30,000 icebergs in the oceans surrounding the Antarctic. Together with glaciologist Monica Kristensen, he now will study the breakdown of icebergs in the open sea.

Researchers on the ship will study marine geology, marine geophysics, and oceanography. Researchers from the Norwegian Polar Institute and the Institute for Continental Shelf Studies will work together to investigate so-called iceberg plowing and the changes that take place on the seabed when the enormous icebergs scrape the bottom. "By studying this phenomenon in the part of the world where iceberg plowing still takes place, we will understand much more about what has taken place on the seabed of the continental shelf in the Nordic regions. There icebergs also have created channels in the seabed," explained marine geophysicist Yngve Kristoffersen of the Norwegian Polar Institute.

Kristen Haugland from the University of Bergen will be responsible for the research program in marine geophysics. A group under his leadership will examine seabed sediments in the Cray Delta of the Weddell Sea. These sediments are an indicator of the region's geological history. So far, the research data indicates that the ice formation was completed 4.5 million years ago.

Oceanographer Arne Foldvik from the University of Bergen will lead a group that will measure temperatures and currents in the Weddell Sea. Waters from this region are primarily responsible for renewing the oceans of the world.

On land, in the Gjelsvik Mountains, researchers will set up tents and study birds. Ornithologists Claus Beck and Svein Haftorn of the University of Trondheim and Fridtjof Mehlum of the Norwegian Polar Institute will study the behavior of petrels, which brood in this area, 200 km from the coast and from their sources of food. Zoologist Lauritz Somme from the University of Oslo will continue his studies on invertebrates in this icy wilderness. Botanist and medical doctor Torstein Engelskjøn from the University of Oslo will also conduct research in the mountains. His field is the limiting conditions for plant life.

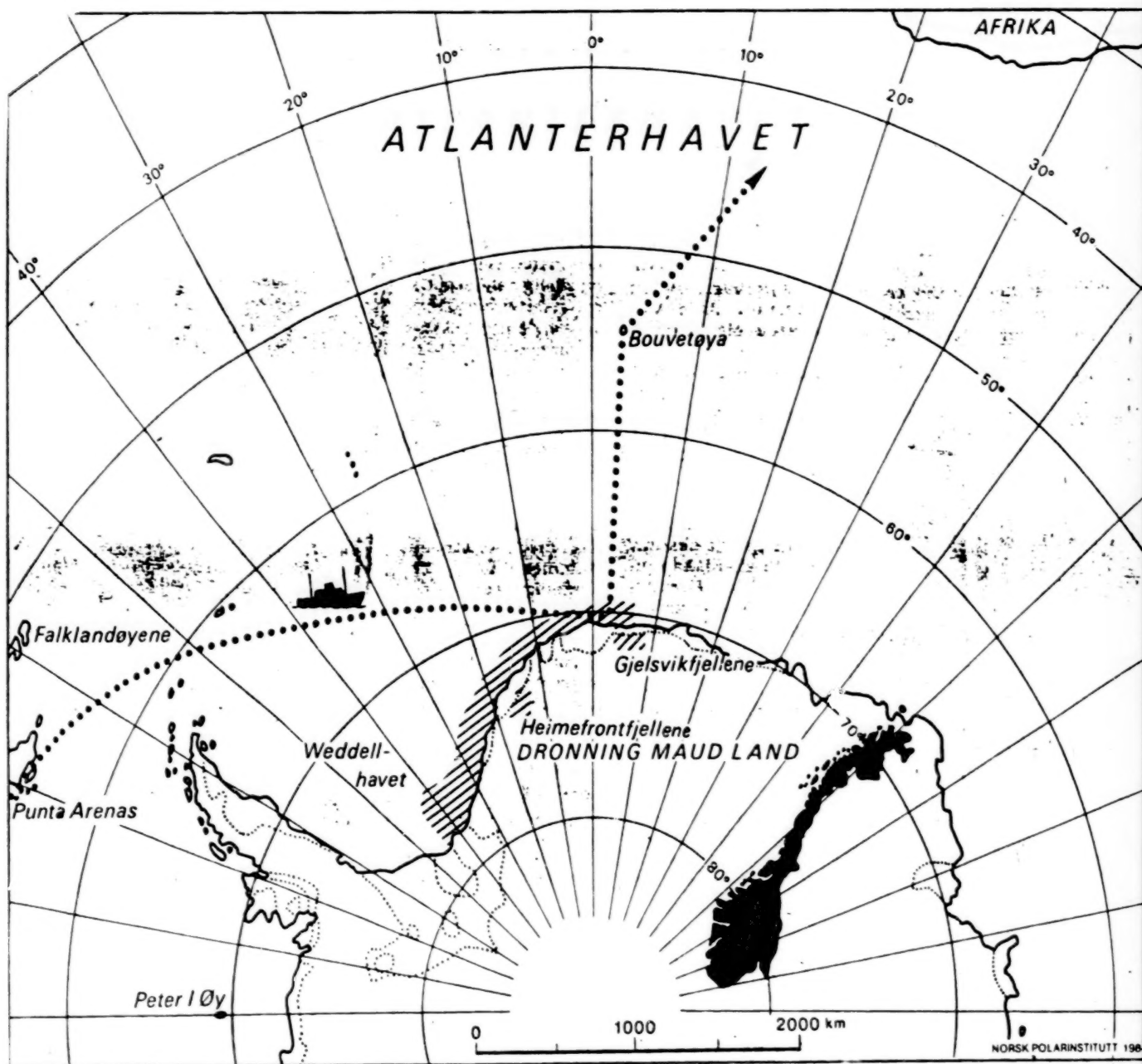
Glaciologist Yngvar Gjessing from the University of Bergen will examine the sulfate and heavy-metal content of the snow, conduct microclimatic studies of vegetation on the nunataks (mountain peaks), and conduct detailed studies of freezing under the edge of the ice.

Norwegian Polar Institute surveyors Knut Svendsen and Trond Eiken will conduct topographic measurements for new satellite maps of the region. Yoshihide Ohta from Japan, a member of the Norwegian Polar Institute, will be responsible for the geological survey.

Another group of researchers will go ashore into the Western and Heimefront Mountains. Geologist Harald Furnes and geophysicist Reidar Lovlie from the University of Bergen will continue the work they began during an Antarctic expedition in 1976 and 1977. Their field is continental drift. "We know that 150 to 180 million years ago the Antarctic was adjacent to southeastern Africa and that Africa, the Antarctic, India, and Australia formed one continent. Now we will continue our study of rocks in the Western Mountains to see if they are the same types as those found in southeastern Africa," Reidar Lovlie said.

Orheim estimates that the expedition will cost about 12 million kroner. In addition, another expedition is being planned for 3 years from now. "We hope to get some indication about its status during the spring session of parliament when the Polar Report is debated," he said.

It is believed that Russian, Indian, West German, and other researchers will leave for the Antarctic when the Norwegians travel south. Orheim also believes there will be time to visit several land stations in the Antarctic.



This map shows the route of the Antarctic expedition. The shaded area in the Weddell Sea shows where research from the ship will take place. The two shaded areas on land show where the land projects will be conducted. The expedition has been given the name NARE 1984/85.

(Map from the Norwegian Polar Institute)

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CSO: 3639/102

COAST GUARD TO TAKE TOUGHER MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL FISHING

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 31 Mar 84 p 11

[Text] Kristianstad, Friday--At last the Swedish Coast Guard can take strong measures against foreign fishermen violating our fishing boundaries. The problem has been growing gradually as fishing zone boundaries have grown closer and closer, and it has intensified in the southern Baltic Sea.

Recently, Danish fishermen in particular have been caught with increasing frequency in Swedish waters. The penalty has been fines--there has been no legal way to repel encroachers in a more physical way, and the latter have been obviously aware of that fact.

But now things will be different. The chief of the Frontier Guard--the coast guard's highest officer--has issued instructions concerning the stiffer coercive measures that can be taken in the future against those violating Sweden's fishing limits.

Very generally, the rule is that the coast guard can use coercive measures if it determines that it cannot perform its duty in any other way.

The new instructions provide examples of steps that the coast guard is entitled to take against a vessel whose captain does not obey orders given to him.

The coast guard may board the fishing vessel, stop its engines and tow it to a Swedish port against the captain's wishes. It is also permitted to maneuver the coast guard vessel in such a way as to prevent or obstruct the fishing vessel's progress.

The coast guard may also cast towing-cable hooks onto the trawl wire and throw grappling irons with towing cables on board so as to tow the fishing vessel away. Other methods that may be used include cutting the trawl wire so as to prevent further illegal fishing.

The coast guard is welcoming most of those instructions, even though they may mean more rough stuff around our fishing boundaries, especially those in the southern Baltic.

The government is also proposing stiffer penalties for foreign fishing in Swedish waters. Swedish fishermen, especially those in the southern Baltic, where

the illegal fishing has been most widespread, have long complained of the fact that Danish fishermen who have been caught have received ridiculously low fines. Swedes who fish in Danish or Soviet waters are fined considerably higher amounts.

The government is proposing that fines be based on the engine power of the poaching vessel. This would mean, for example, that a fishing boat with an engine of at least 1,000 horsepower could be fined up to 100,000 kronor.

When added to the value of the forfeited fishing tackle and the illegal catch, it would mean that in the future, a foreign boat might lose up to 250,000 kronor because of its poaching.

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